August-September, 1982

The National Future Farmer

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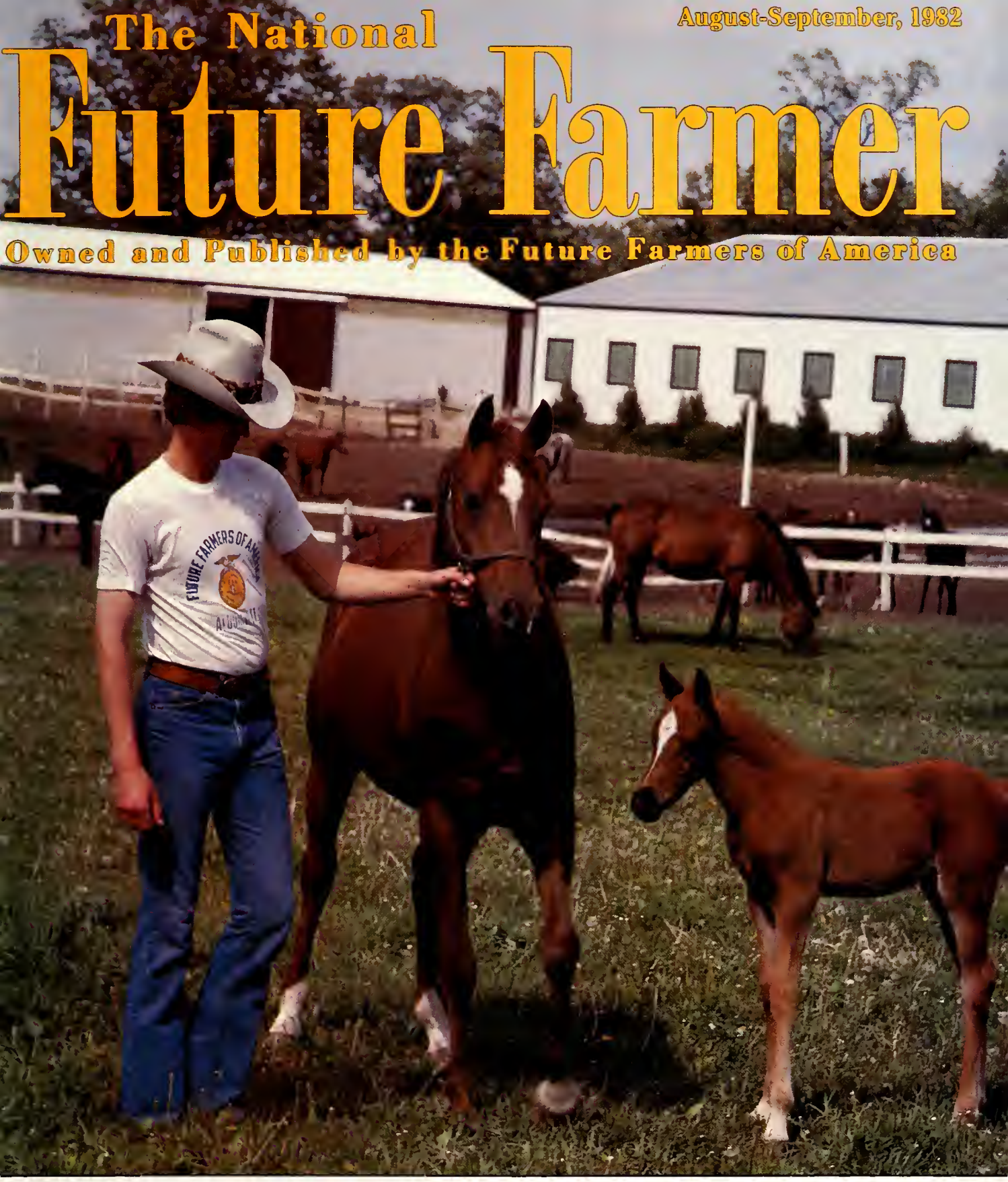

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Professional horse trainer Jody Strand

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The National
Future Farmer
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August-September, 1982
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A Word With The Editor

Supervised Occupational Experience (SOE) is receiving renewed emphasis in agricultural education. And you, the student, should benefit most.

The 1982 SOE Workshop, July 25-30 in Arlington, Virginia and at the National FFA Center, is the kickoff for this nationwide effort. While the workshop will be over by the time you read this, all signs point to a successful event. Over 70 people will be on the program and nearly 200 supervisors, teacher educators and teachers are registered to attend.

"The workshop is an effort of the entire profession," says Bob Seefeldt, FFA program specialist who is helping coordinate the conference. "It will be a workshop with people telling what they are doing, not staff telling people what to do," he said.

As a result of the workshop, each state will have a trained team to put on similar workshops within their respective states. The conference is also expected to develop a host of materials to assist in doing the job. A new film entitled "Bridging the Gap" will be introduced. It is sponsored by Ciba-Geigy and will be available on a loan basis from the Venard organization or can be purchased through the National FFA Supply Service. There is also a new SOE handbook, sponsored by DeKalb Ag Research.

Mr. Seefeldt said the SOE Workshop and the follow-up will benefit FFA members in many ways. Adults responsible for vocational agriculture programs will be better prepared to help students set realistic career goals, plan and conduct practical SOE programs, understand the different types of SOE programs that are available and explore opportunities available for SOE programs. The end results should be more students prepared to enter the real world of work and more students qualified to receive FFA degrees and awards.

"It could potentially be one of the most important national agricultural education meetings ever held," says Byron Rawls, national FFA advisor and program specialist for agriculture in the U.S. Department of Education, one of the workshop sponsors.

In this issue: Snow scenes are refreshing in August, but it wasn't that way when Managing Editor Mike Wilson traveled to Utah in April to do the snow survey story. He was caught in a freak blizzard and subfreezing temperatures. He got the story (Page 46) in spite of the erratic weather. Water—will there be enough? Some believe not, so we asked Den Gardner to prepare an article about one potential "hot spot" where the supply is expected to be depleted in your lifetime (Page 17). We hope you will enjoy the other articles too, dealing with natural resources and horse management.

Wilson Carnes

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Our Cover

We caught 19-year-old Jody Strand hard at work at his family-owned and operated horse farm "Strand's Arabian Stables" near Alburnett, Iowa. Jody, a seasoned veteran of the horse training profession, earned top honors last year as the central region horse proficiency winner. His story begins on page 14.

Cover photo by Michael Wilson

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The FFA

NEWS IN BRIEF

A NEW WAY to order applications, and other information from the national FFA will soon appear at your FFA chapter's doorstep in the new *FFA Program Catalog.* The catalog, which replaces the chapter guide, allows your advisor to order only those applications and forms your chapter needs, thus reducing the cost and waste of sending unnecessary materials to every chapter. Projected savings to the national organization come to over $20,000, according to Cameron Dubes, director of information.

THE THIRD WORLD Conference of Young Farmers, organized by the German Rural Youth Association and the European Community, is scheduled this year for West Berlin in October. The Conference, held every three years since 1976 in different cities around the world, brings together agricultural youth groups from over 40 countries. The FFA delegation, sponsored by Claas of America, Inc., will consist of the eight regional Star Farmers and Agribusinessmen, one national officer and National Advisor Byron Rawls.

THE 1983 CALENDAR Program also has a new look to it: under the easy-to-use "two-step" system, FFA members can now take calendar orders under a one-price, one-plan principle where both sponsors and chapters pay the same price. The new system also features multiple imprint options for sponsors, and FFA chapters can order wall style calendars which include a chapter portrait.

TWO NEW VOTING members will be in attendance at the July, 1982, meeting of the FFA Board of Directors in Alexandria, Virginia. William B. Shreck, state supervisor from Illinois succeeds State Supervisor Larry Nelson from South Dakota in the Central Region, and William Dannenhauer, state supervisor from Delaware, will represent the Eastern Region succeeding retiring Dr. James Shaeffer, New Jersey state supervisor.

THE NATIONAL FFA Foundation recently announced four new sponsors supporting FFA through financial assistance. Along with Claas of America, Inc., other special projects sponsors include: Na-Churs Plant Food Company (Two Star Category) and Kubota Tractor Corporation (Gold Category.) New General Fund sponsors include: Hershey Foods Corporation and Teledyne Charitable Trust Foundation, both Silver Category Sponsors.

CONVENTION UPDATE: Added to the list of star attractions for this year's 55th National Convention are Dale Evans and Eddie Albert, stars of film and television. Those who attended last year's convention will remember Mr. Albert's surprise appearance and enthusiastic support for the FFA. Also scheduled to appear is long-time FFA supporter Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

At press time dedication ceremonies were under way for the new FFA Hall of Achievement at the National FFA Center. The Hall will be the subject of a feature story coming up in the next issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER.*

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Readers Report

MAILBAG

Thornburg, Iowa

I would like to comment about the item in the "Chapter Scoop" in the April-May, 1982, edition of *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. I was taught by our instructor that alcohol and tobacco should not be used by FFA members. Why, then, did the Terry, Texas, Chapter sponsor a tobacco spitting contest for Greenhands? I believe that activities of this sort are disrespectful of our national organization. In my opinion, things like this might discourage some people from becoming new members. I didn't write this to hurt anyone. I am just pointing out something that I thought needed attention.

Thank you for reading my letter. I will continue to read "Chapter Scoop" because I do enjoy finding out about other chapters' activities.

Bryan Rogers

Tanin, Texas

So far, I like your magazine. I jut got it today as a Greenhand. I love working and being in the Goliad Chapter, but I would like to know about other people and their chapters.

Somewhere you should have an FFA pen pal section. There's a lot of small towns with young people who like to know about different places, chapters and other people. I know I would.

Debra L. Forman

Montgomery, Texas

I was so surprised when I read about the Tesnohlidek family in the June-July issue. What a talented bunch! I think it is a great reassurance to the adults to see these young people become leaders of our world today. I hope the FFA will continue to produce such fine and outstanding citizens.

Elaine Marshall

Ansley, Nebraska

On April 12, in Ansley, Nebraska, we held our annual FFA banquet. At this time the FFA and FFAMW (Future Farmers of America Mother and Wives organized to support FFA) presented a "Mother-of-the-Year" award. This was the first year for such an award.

This award was presented to Mrs. Leo Ryan who has given her time and support to FFA and FFAMW for the past 20 years. Her first son joined our Ansley FFA Chapter in 1962. Every year since she has had a son or daughter—a total of nine—in FFA. All have belonged and been a credit to our chapter.

This year, a daughter, who is a junior, was chosen as FFA sweetheart. She has also been student aid for our vocational agriculture instructor. Mrs. Ryan's youngest son is in junior high and I'm betting he will be a member of FFA.

The president of FFAMW presented the "Mother-of-the-Year" award to Mrs. Ryan and the standing ovation she received from close to 200 guests was tremendous. We had sent invitations to her family and all were able to attend but one son. It was a special moment when her husband, sons and daughters and their spouses were introduced and came to the front to stand with their wife and mother and have their picture taken.

Larry Hoblyn

Fairmont, Minnesota

I would like to know if I could subscribe to *The NAtional FUTURE FARMER*. I am not an FFA member and am older than the people in FFA, but I am involved in farming with my dad. I have read your magazine in the local library and find it rather informative.

Tom Simpson

Non-members may subscribe at $2.00 per year. Just send name and address with request and payment.—Ed.

Mexico, Missouri

In your June-July issue, as always, there was a variety of articles.

I'd like to comment on "The Importance of Thanks." As a two-year FFA member it made me realize how much I appreciate all those who keep me challenging myself and wanting to learn by doing, whether it be as state officer or chapter member. Mostly I appreciate my parents for their understanding and help with any FFA project. They take time so I learn.

And if there is one most important thing I've learned, it's to take advantage of every opportunity that comes my way One of these opportunities is just plain listening. Thank you, Future Farmer magazine.

Valerie Williams

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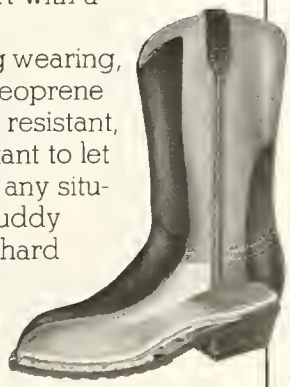

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Agriculture

LOOKING AHEAD

NUCLEAR TOMATOES: exposing fruits, vegetables and other foods to radioactive materials for preservation purposes may be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration later this year. According to scientists at Cornell University, research shows no ill effects of consuming "irradiated" foods, although long-term effects are not known. The process already is practiced on about 40 different foods in 22 other countries, and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization encourages U.S. approval to promote foreign trade.

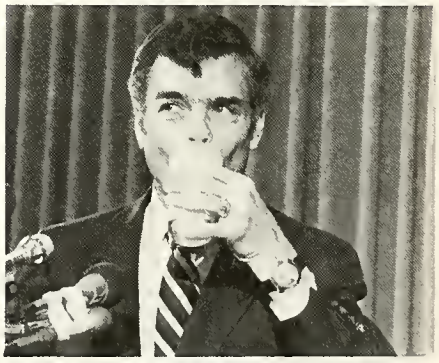
MORE AND MORE vocational agriculture teachers are leaving their jobs for new careers, with fewer and fewer new agricultural education graduates to take their place, say researchers at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The result is a nationwide shortage of high school ag teachers. "Turnovers in ag education positions at high schools hit 13 percent in 1981, the highest turnover in about seven years," says Professor of Ag Education Thomas Stitt. A recent survey found more than 100 jobs nationwide went unfilled last year.

NEARLY TWO MILLION telephone calls were attempted by farmers seeking to speak directly to federal farm-policymakers last May during the Agriculture Council of America's 12-hour National Hearing on the Farm Economy. Of those attempted calls, an estimated 2,000 were taken by members of Congress, Executive Branch officials, congressional staff aides or farm-group representatives at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. " . . . the fact that so many farmers tried to call is clear evidence that agriculture has severe difficulties" says Lawrence V. Gray, a Nampa, Idaho, row-crop producer who is chairman of ACA's board of directors. Predominant concerns from callers were high interest rates and U.S. trade policy.

MOVE OVER, MEN: according to a recent USDA report, 5 percent of the nation's nearly 2.5 million farms are operated by women—about 128,000 altogether. Researchers say this figure may be low, since many farm wives do farmwork on their husbands' farms. A closer analysis indicates farm women operate smaller farms than farm men (285 acres vs 423 acres) and women farmers are older than men farmers (more than 60 percent are 55 years or older, and one-third are 65 years old or more). What's more, over 1,000 women farmers had gross sales last year of over $100,000.

U.S. FARMLAND VALUES fell for the first time in 28 years last year, according to a report in the USDA's *Farm Paper Letter.* Between February 1, 1981, and April 1, 1982, farmland values declined 1 percent, with the last such decline reported back in 1954. Farmland values had increased 16 percent in 1979 and again 9 percent in 1980. Sharpest decline came from the Corn Belt states, which showed a 19 percent drop. The 1 percent decline changed the average price of an acre to $788, down from $795 per acre a year earlier.

DRINKING A GLASS of milk at a news conference to announce a new dairy price support program in May, Secretary of Agriculture John Block said he drinks a glass of milk each evening before going to bed. "If everyone did that, we'd solve the dairy surplus problem quickly," he says. Mr. Block is asking Congress



John Block

for discretion to adjust farm milk price supports to increase markets, lessen government costs and reduce the size of the dairy surplus—which now costs a staggering $2 billion. Over the last three years, the federal government has accumulated enough surplus butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk to represent nearly 75 pounds for every American.

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Breed Associations Offer Youth Scholarships, Awards

As a service to our readers, we set out to gather as much information on youth incentive programs as possible from your favorite horse breed associations. Listed below you'll find several different programs in which you may want to get involved. Most offer scholarships—and who knows? Maybe you'll be a winner! But you've got to get involved first, so read on:

Pony of the Americas Club

The Pony of the Americas Club, Inc. annually sponsors three scholarships for outstanding youth. Scholarships are sponsored through memorial funds, endowments, state and chapter club donations, individual donations, plus POA Club special scholarship activities. The POA Club offers three $500 scholarships each year to active POA'ers and any boy and girl meeting the following requirements will be eligible: be a member of a POA family or participating youth in POA activities who is either a graduating senior or attending an institute of higher learning. More information, requirements and an application form can be received by writing: Pony of the Americas Club Scholarship Endowment Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 1447, Mason City, Iowa 50401.

American Morgan Horse Association

The American Morgan Horse Institute has established a scholarship program with two $500 and two $250 scholarships awarded during Morgan week in Oklahoma City, October 10-17. Application for a scholarship is open to any young man or woman 21-or-under as of January 1 of the application. Selection will be based on achievement with horses, ability and aptitude for serious study, community service, leadership and scholastic need. Get more information from: Frank B. Dodd, AMHI, Route 1, Box 138, Fernley, Nebraska 89408. Entries for 1982 must be postmarked by September 1.

Appaloosa Youth Association

The Appaloosa Horse Club offers seven $800 scholarships annually to deserving youth, one from each of the five territories and two selected at-large by their Youth Scholarship Committee. Deadline for next year's scholarships is June 1 and the scholarship fund check will be payable only to the institution at which the recipient wishes to further his or her education. For more information write: Appaloosa Horse Club, Inc., Youth, Show and Contest Department, P.O. Box 8403, Moscow, Idaho 83843.

American Junior Quarter Horse Association

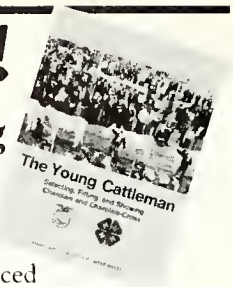
Fifty-five American Junior Quarter Horse Association members were recently chosen as 1982-83 recipients of $500 scholarships through the AJQHA Scholarship Program. This is the fifth year the program has been in existence and to date 69 students have received scholarships totalling $44,000. Funding for the program comes through interested individuals and companies involved in the Quarter Horse industry. Applicants must have been AJQHA members for the previous two years unless past the AJQHA eligibility cut-off of 18-years-of-age. Applicants must also be high school graduates in the upper 20 percent of the class or scoring in the upper 20 percent on a national college entrance examination. Other requirements and an application form can be received by writing: American Junior Quarter Horse Association, Amarillo, Texas 79168.

International Arabian Horse Association

The International Arabian Horse Association introduces their second annual essay contest "Growing with my Arabian Gelding" for 1982 and two Arabian breeders have donated two geldings as prizes. Entries in the contest will be accepted June 1 through August 1, 1982, and will be considered in two age groups to insure a fair evaluation. Entries judged second in each age group will receive a $100 Savings Bond and the third runner-up will receive honorable mention. Winning essays will be published in the major Arabian Horse publications and all-breed publications at the discretion of the editors. For contest rules and information write: IAHA Essay Contest, P.O. Box 4502, Burbank, California 91503.

NEW!

The Young Cattleman



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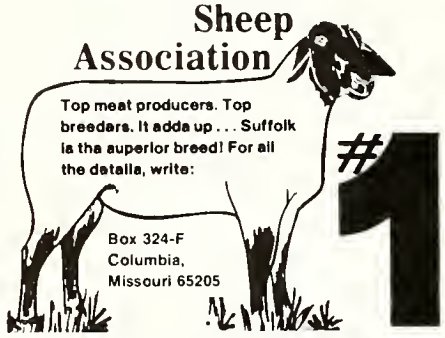
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Tall In The Saddle

At six feet four inches, this horseman stands tall among his peers in the horse training business—both physically and professionally.

WHEN it comes to training horses, Jody Strand is head and shoulders above others his age as a professional.

Jody, from the Alburnett, Iowa, FFA Chapter has developed a keen awareness—a 'horse' sense, if you will—for handling horses and their riders.

It all makes sense considering he's spent over 5,000 hours training horses and giving riding instruction since he made it part of his SOE program six years ago. His dedication and expertise paid off in 1981 when Jody found himself named central region winner of FFA's horse proficiency award, sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Association.

"Just by looking at a horse you have to be able to tell certain things about him" says the lanky 19-year-old. "If you're around *anything* as much as I've been around horses, you're going to have to know what you're talking about. And I've been showing and riding horses since I was about five years old." Now, Jody puts his training and showing skills to the test each day as the sparkplug for the family-owned Arabian horse farm.

Located amid the corn belt farmers of east central Iowa, "Strand's Arabian Stables" seems like a horseman's hidden paradise—mammoth shade trees dwarf the Strand's headquarters, as dazzling white fences zig-zag across cool green pastures filled with horses of every size and color. Strand's became reality in 1969 after Jody's family, consisting of parents Ed and Vivian, three older brothers and one older sister, moved from a dairy farm to pursue the family's favorite interest: Arabian horse management.

"I'm not the only one training here," says Jody. "It's a family-run business." Strand's also employs a secretary to take care of breeding records, billing and other bookkeeping chores.

Jody's responsibilities on the 53-acre spread include management of horse breeding, horse boarding, riding instruction and horse training services, mostly for show. And although the Strand family raises only Arabians, they train all breeds.

"We prefer to train Arabians simply because we know the people in the business—and they know us," explains Jody. "But we don't refuse to train other breeds. I just got finished putting some time in on a quarter horse."

One of Jody's horses, "Hal Gibby," was named among the top ten Arabians in the nation three years ago. And two years ago, Gibby was named reserve Canadian grand champion. You can bet that kind of success works to the Strand's advantage.

"We don't just show horses for pleasure," Jody says with a sly grin. "We also show for profit. Take Hal Gibby for example: no one would ever know about that horse if we trained him and never showed him. But we took him to nationals, and people *saw* him.

"*That* stimulates business, and then people bring their mares to breed to him," Jody adds. "It's just good public relations."

When Jody mentions breeding services, he's not talking small change. A stud fee to Hal Gibby, for example, goes for $1,000. "G-Amigo," Gibby's grandfather and father of several national Arabian champions, has a stud fee of $1,500. That kind of business can add up, but good breeding can really pay off.

"We're breeding horses here for show," says Jody. "You have to be able to breed certain traits into them. With Arabs, we're striving for refinement: refined heads, big eyes, fine bones, small ears and overall beauty."

"It's not only quality and confirmation in breeding," adds Mr. Strand, "it's also performing ability."

Because of his diverse training experience, Jody offers training in virtually all classes for show, such as English, driving, native costume, park or western.

How long does it take to train a horse?

"One month for simple things like breaking a horse to ride," Jody answers. "But for training like Gibby's it's much longer—possibly a year.

"That may seem like a long time, but we're talking about from the time a horse has never had anything on it until the time it hits the show ring,

Jody and his dad work a horse at Strand's arena.

Feeding time at Strand's Arabian Stables.

By Michael Wilson

working like a million bucks."

Jody can also recognize when a horse *can't* be trained. "Some horses are crazy," he explains. "We just can't afford to put the time into them."

Jody recently sold his last mare in exchange for the son of a national champion, and owns only one gelding for riding lessons. For now, his priority is in training and showing.

"Ive got eight horses I'm training right now," he says. "When I get home from my part-time job in town, I'm out in the barn 'til seven or eight o'clock at night. We have several clients who board their horses and hire us to exclusively train, condition and show the animals."

Jody's other responsibilities at the horse farm include administering medications, assisting foaling mares, palpating brood mares, handling stallions for the stable's breeding program and managing fertilizer programs for pasture and hay land.

Jody's expertise was recognized in 1980 when he was named Iowa Star Agribusinessman. He also served as vice president and treasurer of the Alburnett FFA Chapter. He admits most of his horse training education came from experience at home. But, he says, FFA helped him gain leadership, public speaking and public relations skills, plus skills learned in the classroom.

"I learned several fundamentals about livestock genetics through FFA and the vo-ag program," reflects Jody.

Above, Jody takes Hal Gibby, one of Strand's top stallions, for a light workout at the family stables.

A foal from Hal Gibby. *Photos by Author*

"A breeding stallion must first prove himself in type and performance in the show ring; then have progeny that will prove the stallion can carry those qualities through genetics."

Jody plans to continue at Strand's Arabian Stables, making horse training, breeding and showing his career. Eventually, Jody's goal is to own a riding and breeding stable and combine his horse training career with the breeding service program. With the success he's already experienced, no doubt Jody's career dreams will come true. As Jody's former FFA Advisor Walter Hungerford, now retired, put it:

"Jody's performance in the show ring and his home arena has proved to others that the family's stock is not only beautiful but has shown excellent performance. I had never seen anyone handle stallions with as much ease, capability and gentleness as Jody. I have no doubt that Jody will achieve his career goals." •••

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Running On Empty

A recent survey showing decreasing underground water levels prompts the question: How long can we continue to take agricultural water for granted?

This is Part I of a series

By Den Gardner

SHELVIE Crittendon of Brawley, California, reaches down to set his hand into an irrigation canal and watch the water flow gently between his fingers. He knows water is gold in California's Imperial Valley, and as ranch manager of Elmore Company Desert Ranch, it's his job to see that the 5,200 acres are irrigated efficiently.

"Water is expensive," he says. "We're trying to be real conservative with our water. . . . Those who let their water run off are going to be asking themselves 'What am I going to do?' in a few years when our supplies are cut way back. We're going to be ready for it."

Crittendon, like other irrigators around the country, is caught up in a wave of water conservation sweeping states that rely on irrigation for survival in farming. Crittendon doesn't face the doom and gloom predicted by some in the Great Plains. But he does realize water is a finite resource.

How important is irrigation in agriculture? Analysts at Battelle's Pacific Northwest Division and Geneva Research Centers found that irrigated crops account for 40 percent of total world food consumption, although only 10 percent of cultivated land is irrigated.

It's been estimated that 61 million acres were irrigated in 1981 in the U.S. Of that, 85 percent is in 17 western states, from North Dakota south to Texas and west. And it's in America's so-called breadbasket, states such as Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, and others where alarms have been sounded about the impending doom of farming.

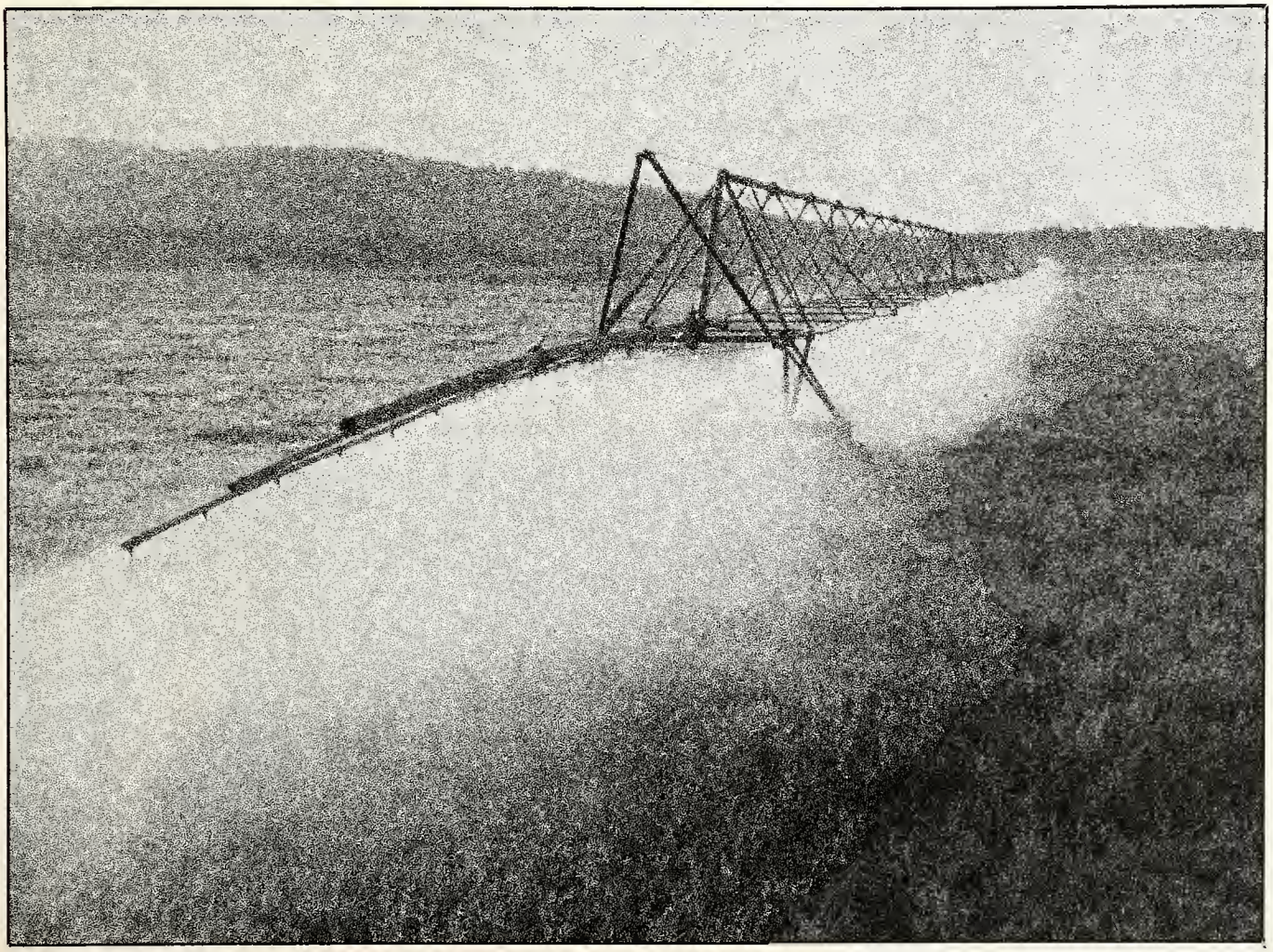
The Ogallala Aquifer

It's in the Great Plains where the Ogallala Aquifer, a vast underground

(Continued on next page)

A circle sprinkler system applies a heavy mist of water to this Oregon wheatfield.

Photos courtesy USDA-Soil Conservation Service



"What frightens irrigators is predictions of a return to the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s when farmers could expect a good crop maybe two years out of ten. What that could mean someday to consumers is scary."

reservoir of water, lies. The Ogallala is losing water. Some say too fast. It's predicted that sometime within the next 40 years parts will dry up completely.

The Ogallala and other smaller aquifers range in thickness from 1,000 feet in Nebraska, where the majority of the water lies, to only several inches in certain sections of the High Plains of Texas. Irrigators in South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico are served from the Ogallala, which covers about 177,000 square miles.

The average saturated thickness of the aquifer is about 200 feet, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It's thickest in Nebraska, where it averages 340 feet. In the other seven states, the saturated thickness of the aquifer averages only 110 feet.

The aquifer contains several billion acre-feet of water and water levels have been falling since crop irrigation began increasing after World War II. John B. Weeks, director of the survey, emphasizes that less than 75 percent of the stored water in the aquifer could be withdrawn with existing technology.

Recently, a Boston engineering firm estimated that 5.1 million acres of irrigated land above the aquifer will dry up sometime around 2020. What frightens irrigators is predictions of a return to the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s when farmers could expect a good crop maybe two years out of ten. What that could mean someday to consumers is scary. Most see food prices as high enough already. Lower crop production generally means higher prices at the supermarket.

The aquifer is drying up because of the scarcity of surface water and the various types of soil layers which, in effect, seal off the aquifer. So, the annual recharge years ago fell behind the withdrawal. Put simply: Water is being mined from the Ogallala.

Jack Runkles, director of the Texas Water Resource Institute, says the developing water crisis will be the most severe in Texas and the Southwest unless steps are taken to conserve. "In short, we're literally mining our water resources," he said. "We have two major options for preventing a devastating water crisis. One of these is for the state to pursue importation of water from other parts of the country. The second is for the state to adjust water use so as to live within the available water resources."

Runkles wants irrigators to concentrate on conservation and water re-use in the next few decades. Improving technology to further improve the efficiency of utilization of present water resources is also needed to stem the tide of declining water levels.

A committee representing the governors of states that pump water from the aquifer have published a list of recommendations to deal with the Ogallala problem. Although most of the recommendations are short-term, one is not: a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan to build a huge canal system that would pump water from South Dakota, Missouri and Arkansas. It's estimated that the cost could go as high as $22 billion.

Several years ago a consulting firm studied the feasibility of transporting water from Canada into the Southwest at a cost of $10 billion a year for a number of years. A network of canals, aqueducts and rivers would transport water to California and Arizona. Some day this might be necessary. No one knows for sure.

Importing water, however, is under great debate. J. David Aiken, University of Nebraska water law specialist, says, "Water importation is controversial; people living in the region from which the water is imported do not like having their water supplies diminished for the benefit of those in the importing regions. The principal adverse impact to the supply region is reduced stream-flow, which can diminish water supply availability for irrigation, municipal and industrial purpose, environmental and recreational opportunities, and groundwater recharge from streamflow."

Along those same lines is "water banking," a concept being tossed around in California. It's adaptable to areas with a concentration of reservoirs where surface waters are contained. Water banking is a concept whereby an allocated user of water who doesn't need his entire allocation "sells" his surplus to a user who needs more than his allocation provides. Problems such as how to make the water available and assuring that future allocation won't be affected because of selling water must be addressed. It's a plan that would be difficult to implement.

Center pivot development

But let's step back for a minute to the early 1950s, when irrigation in the Great Plains began a quiet revolution. At the time, most growers who watered used furrow irrigation.

In 1952, Frank Zybach, a Nebraska farmer, received a patent for the first center pivot irrigation system. A complete five-tower center pivot over 40 acres was installed on the Ernest Engelbrecht farm north of Strasburg, Colorado. The next year Zybach and a partner negotiated a licensing agreement for the manufacture and sale of the center pivot by Valley Manufacturing of Valley, Nebraska. (The

(Continued on Page 28)

Water delivered to a Nebraska corn crop through gated pipe.

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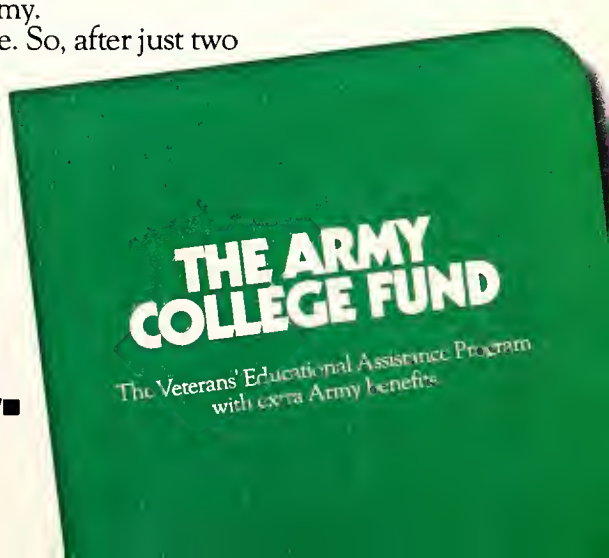

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Your Partner For The Future

Agribusiness leaders
all across this country
commit time and money
to insure your future in agriculture
through the FFA Foundation

EVER wondered about who pays for those medals and plaques FFA members like yourself receive for achievement? Or perhaps that multi-thousand dollar trip you won to Europe for winning a national proficiency award?

It's not the government, or your school; and it's not the national FFA organization, either.

The answer is literally all around you—agribusinessmen, agri-corporations, private groups, farmers and ranchers—each who contribute money and time as sponsors through the National FFA Foundation.

The FFA Foundation serves FFA members by providing monies for a broad range of incentive, leadership and citizenship programs in every local chapter. It's made up of concerned, forward-thinking agribusiness leaders, real people who see to it FFA members are given opportunities and recognized for excellence.

"The sponsors, through the Foundation, are offering a partnership to young people," says Bernie Staller, executive director of the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee. Mr. Staller's job is to solicit funds for the FFA Foundation through contact with business, industry and private groups. He says it's a two-way street between FFA members and sponsors.

"The sponsors are willing to put up the cash to provide the awards, incentives and insure that the opportunities are there," he says. "Young people, of course, are to put up the time and the effort to participate in those opportunities and strive for their successes."

By all standards, the Foundation has been a shining example of success—especially amid today's doomsday cries over slashed budgets and economic woes. The Foundation brought in over $1.29 million last year under the leadership of 1981 Foundation Sponsoring Committee Chairman Dr. Owen J. Newlin, vice-president of Pioneer Hi-bred International, Inc. And it's been growing ever since its conception.

The National FFA Foundation, formed in 1944, grew out of the need for a coordinated award program for

(Continued on Page 33)

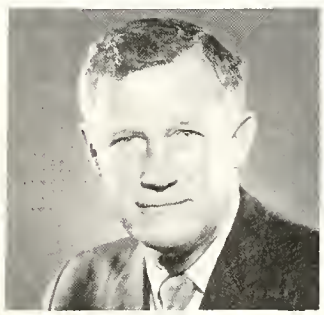
Agribusiness Leaders Working for You

Owen Newlin

Dr. Owen J. Newlin, vice-president of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., served as 1981 Sponsoring Committee chairman. An Honorary American Farmer degree winner, Dr. Newlin has responsibility over several divisions of Pioneer and was elected vice-president in 1978.

Lu Wall

Lu Achilles Wall, executive Assistant to the Chairman of Hesston Corporation, serves as this year's Sponsoring Committee Chairman. She holds Honorary State and American Farmer degrees and is the first woman ever named as chairman.



Robert Book

Robert M. Book is group vice president of ag marketing for Elanco Products Co., and is chairman-elect for the 1983 Foundation Sponsoring Committee. Mr. Book was named 1979 Agri-Marketer of the year by the National Agri-Marketing Association.

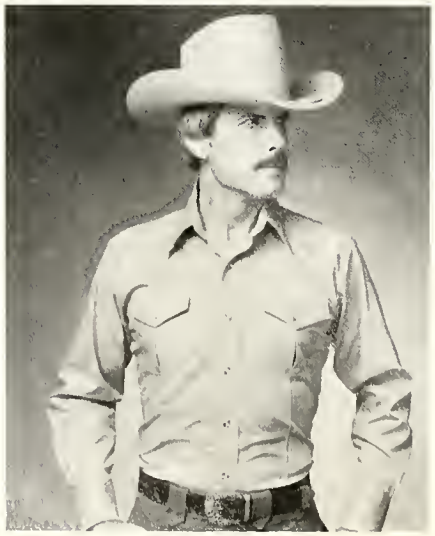
Hilmer Jones

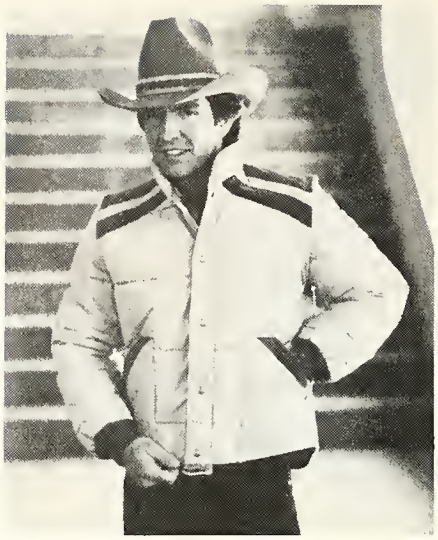
Dr. Hilmer L. Jones is vice president for North American Operations of MSD AGVET, a division of Merck and Co., Inc., responsible for worldwide operations in animal health and agriculture. He will serve as Foundation chairman in 1984.

New Tack

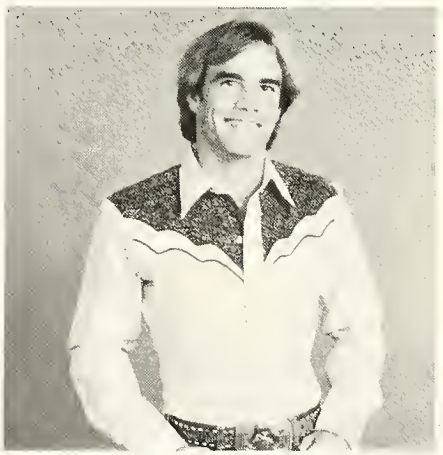
Tex Tan Western Leather Co. presents the "Cimarron" Showman No. 1409-I saddle. Aniline Brown finish is accented by stainless steel lacing and a lovely hand-tooled floral pattern. The cushioned 15-inch seat features an in-skirt 7/8 rigging.

Above, Corona Products Company introduces a pH balanced, non-irritating Shampoo Concentrate for horses, show cattle and other deserving animals. Below, Panhandle Slim introduces this "Military" styled shirt for men and women, featuring flapped and pleated pockets, yokes and wood-look buttons, available in a variety of colors.





Above, this Tony Lama jacket/vest features zip out sleeves for cool weather, and brown synthetic suede bars decorate the yokes and deep pockets. The zipper is covered with a storm closure secured with brass snaps, and the quilted outer-shell is made of a water repellent polyester, cotton and poplin blend. It's machine washable and dryable.



This Stetson Platte features a 7-inch starter center crease crown and a 4-inch raw edge low set brim, trimmed with a woven Indian Thunderbird band, quill and pom feather and Stetson branding iron pin. Below, this Diamond Special from Diamond Tool and Horseshoe Co. features reduced weight and precision-punched nail holes.

Left, Miller Western Wear presents this new western-styled shirt featuring double light-and-dark front and back yokes, accented by Dogger pencil patch pockets, 3-inch collar, 3-snap cuff and extra long tail.

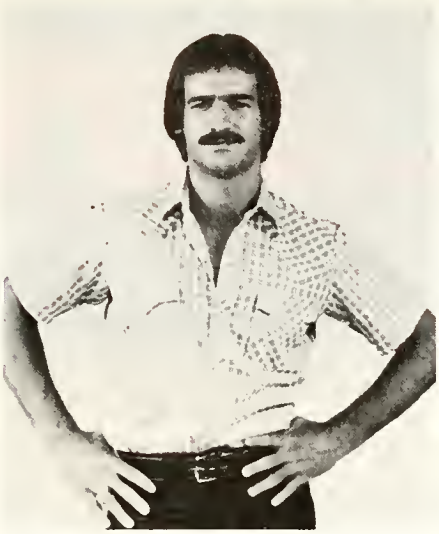
This men's 12-inch slanted riding boot from The Wrangler Company is made of adobe leather, is fully leather-lined and is accented by a heel slip, composition outsole, cushion insole and walking heel.

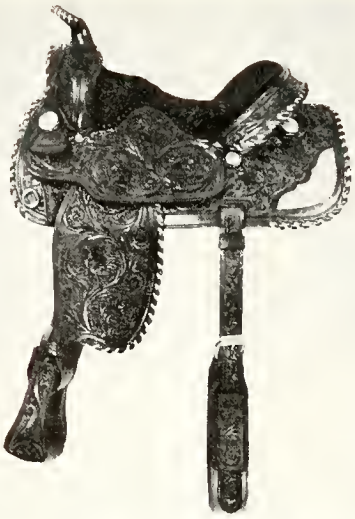
The "Ampalagwa," style No. 9071 from Nocona, features high sheen leather with striking natural patterns of dark brown and cream white highlights, a California scallop and 12-inch tree-bark kiddie top.

Tony Lama introduces their naked tumbled cow boots, Style No. 7123 featuring a light-colored foot and 14-inch tops accented by a pretty floral stitch pattern, popular round toe and walking heel. Available in sizes 4-9.

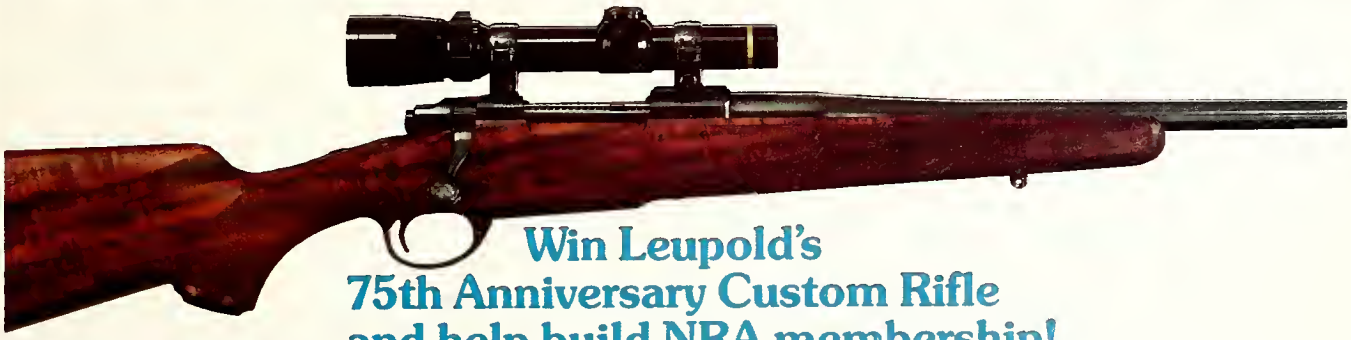
and Togs

Below, Resistol Hats introduces "Bitter Creek," a new fur felt hat with a 4-inch brim and 7-inch crown with a Top Rail crease, trimmed with a woven brown ombre band and light hackle feathers trailing from a leather thong. Available in mink and clay colors.





Above, Dickson-Jenkins Western Wear introduces a new line with DJ #4512S, a polyester and cotton blend shirt with lurex threads woven through the plaid. Above right, Bona Allen Boot & Saddle Co. introduce the "Sundown Special," a saddle featuring hand tooled Sunflower pattern accented by aluminum laced rope-roll edges. Right, Tandy Leather Co. stores are now offering Dr. Jackson's Hide Rejuvenator, a non-toxic biodegradable leather conditioner for preserving and cleaning all leathers except suede.



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Whether you're an NRA member or have thought about joining the National Rifle Association, you could win this beautiful custom Ruger 77 with a Leupold Vari-X III 1.5x5 variable scope. The rifle and scope will be given away as part of Leupold & Stevens' 75th anniversary celebration this year, and their 35th year of scope manufacturing. One of America's finest custom gun builders was commissioned to turn out this superb sporter, recently appraised, with the scope, at more than $2,750. Chambered in .308 Win., the never-fired rifle carries a low 3-digit serial number to add to its value.

- **Beautifully grained Claro Walnut stock.**
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- **Skeleton butt plate with checkered relief.**
- **Machined steel trigger guard & hinged floor plate.**
- **Custom bolt handle with hand checkered knob; bolt body engine turned.**
- **Recontoured safety with gold inlay markings.**

To enter the drawing for the rifle, just fill out the coupon and mail it before October 15, 1982. NRA members can enter by providing the name of a friend to receive NRA membership information. (The friend's name is not entered.) Non-NRA members can enter by requesting the NRA information for themselves. Nothing to buy. Entering drawing does not obligate the entrant in any way. Employees of Leupold and its advertising agency are not eligible.

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Must be postmarked no later than Oct. 15, 1982.

"Why are American farmers price takers, not price makers?"

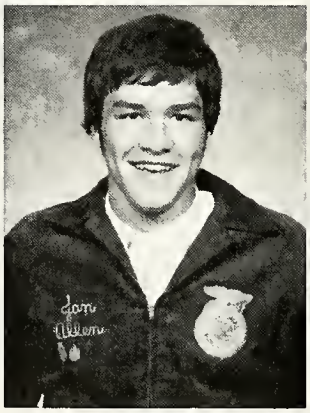
The results are in, and we've got ourselves a winner in our national contest.

BACK in March, the editors of *The National FUTURE FARMER* received a letter from Dave Vogel, a Wisconsin FFA member who asks, in essence: "Why are American farmers price takers, not price makers?"

In response to Dave's letter, we decided to give *you* the opportunity to answer his question. (The contest rules were laid out in your April-May 1982 issue.) Now, after careful deliberation of all contest entries, we've come up with a winner: Jan Allen, sophomore FFA'er from the Starmont, Iowa, FFA Chapter. In addition to having his entry published below, Jan also receives a $35 check and brand new FFA officer/member ring from the national FFA Supply Service, along with our compliments for an outstanding job.

Second place (receiving a $25 check from the national FFA organization) goes to Norman Hein, of the Caliche FFA Chapter in Colorado; and third place (receiving a $15 check) goes to Tim White, from the Ider FFA Chapter in Alabama.

We'd like to say thanks to all of you who took the time to put your ideas down on paper and send them in. We were impressed with the thoughtfulness that went into each contest entry, and the broad range of solutions put forward. And although no single answer can be pointed toward as *the* correct answer, one thing is evident: FFA members of today are seriously thinking about present problems and future solutions as they prepare for careers in agriculture. If these contest entries are any indication, the problems of today's farmer will be faced head-on by competent, aggressive leadership tomorrow. •••



Jan Allen
Starmont, Iowa
FFA Chapter

Ask any farmer why he chose his occupation and most likely the answer you receive would be that he loves the freedom and independence his chosen field provides. This independence is the prime reason why American farmers are price takers and not price makers.

Farmers must be willing to sacrifice a portion of their independence by uniting with other big and small farmers in organizations which will help give them a more powerful and unified voice in government, and help them find means to secure higher prices. Although many farmers dislike government intervention, their participation in government set aside crop acres programs helps get rid of surplus grain, which helps to improve prices.

In our economic system farmers are free to market their products in any way they choose. They can set a price, make adjustments in their expenses to meet these prices, and hope to find a buyer. However, just as with industrial sellers of products, they must compete with producers not only in this country, but all over the world. The American farmer in the past has followed a policy of producing as much as he could and selling it at the easiest market available for whatever price offered. His great efficiency, however, has penalized him many times with lower prices due to over production, sometimes even resulting in losses.

In order to become a price maker, the American farmer must also learn to improve his marketing skills by gathering farm information through listening to radio, reading newspaper and magazine reports to obtain daily information to follow market reactions. He can also obtain United States Department of Agriculture booklets, which contain critical marketing facts that greatly influence futures markets such as seasonal trends, hog cycles, and sow and pig slaughter numbers.

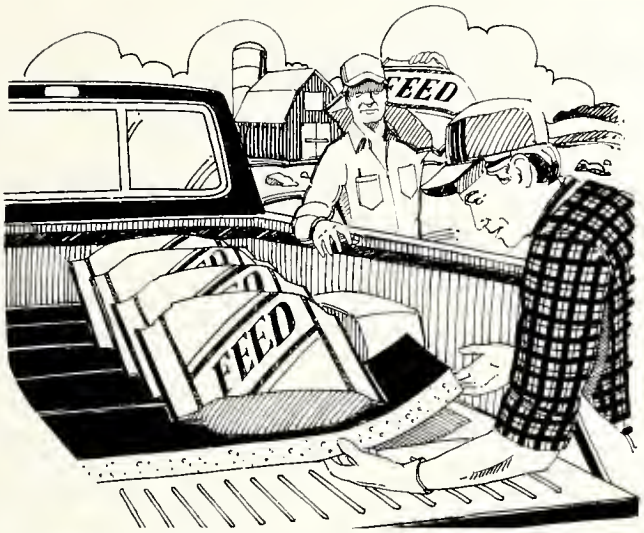
The farmer should know his production costs so that he can look for opportunities to profit through hedging or forward contracting. Hedging is selling commodity futures as a protection against loss due to price fluctuation. Farmers should seek training if necessary so that they can understand the futures market, hedging, basis, and forward contracting. Classes are often offered in these subjects through extension offices to those who have not had the opportunity to learn these subjects in vocational agriculture.

Improving prices through exports must not be overlooked. Thirty percent of the farmer's income today comes from exports, which helps diminish surplus farm products. We must work toward the goal of increasing exports even more.

If the American farmer wants to become a price maker and not a price taker, he must be willing to make changes in procedures he has followed in the past.

AG TIPS

from your Exxon Farm Distributor



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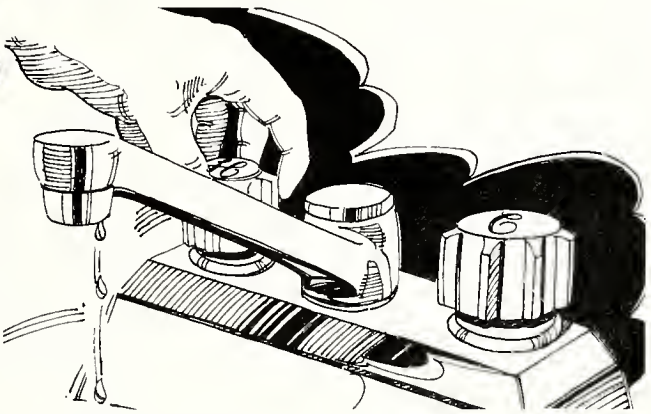

The $50 hot water drip

A steady drip from a water faucet wastes at least 10 gallons of water per day. If it's *hot* water, and you pay five cents per kilowatt/hour for electricity, that drip is taking about $50 per year out of your pocket, according to USDA calculations. And if you drain the sediment from the bottom of your hot water tank every six months or so, you'll help keep its efficiency and economy at peak levels.

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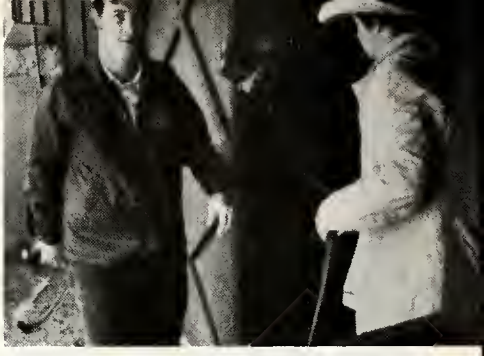
Photo by Midge Ames

Above, Rock demonstrates cutting horse skills at AJQHA finals.



Above, Rock takes "Diamond Lena Bars" for a rainy-day workout as his FFA Advisor Nat Lommori looks on.

World Champion

WHAT does it take to become a world champion?

Rock Hedlund knows, because he's been there. It takes hard work and a keen competitive edge. But most of all, it takes a total dedication.

Rock, from the Carson Valley FFA Chapter in Gardnerville, Nevada, is a cutting horse trainer and champion who knows his way around in the Quarter Horse business. The 19-year-old has quickly established an excellent reputation at both state and national horse shows and rodeos—highlighted last year when he became Nevada's first American Junior Quarter Horse Association (AJQHA) world champion.

As a 14-year-old five years ago Rock had already won 12 championships in the Nevada Quarter Horse Association. It was at that time he decided to try his hand at training cutting horses, and spent the next year refining skills as a cutting horse trainer. The cutting horse is trained for its ability to separate a cow from a herd, then keep her separated; it's known for its agility and can stop on a dime.

Rock put his newly-developed skills to the test in 1979 and promptly won both state championships in the Nevada JQHA and Nevada High School Rodeo Association (HSRA)—qualifying him for both associations' national contests.

Rock finished in the top ten at National HSRA and placed fifth at the AJQHA world championship that year. The next year was almost a repeat performance: two state championships, then a third place National HSRA finish and another fifth place finish at AJQHA finals.

For most, third and fifth place finishes at world champion events would have given plenty of satisfaction. But for Rock, it wasn't enough: so he set his sights on 1981.

After the purchase of eight-year-old "Diamond Lena Bars," out of top bloodlines, Rock was ready for another shot at the world championships. For the third year in a row he won both state finals in NQHA and NHSRA. But this time Rock's drive for perfection materialized as he took first place at the American Junior Quarter Horse Association World Championship, and became his state's first national cutting horse world champ, defeating 37 top competitors from across the country.

Rock's hard work has paid off in a colorful array of ribbons and trophies. He's got a special room adjacent to his stables where award mementos are displayed literally from wall to wall, ceiling to floor. Altogether, Rock estimates 275 blue ribbons, 53 belt buckles, two saddles and over 300 trophies are here in this room—all rewards for excellence.

Rock plans to attend the University of Nevada this fall, taking advantage of a full-ride four-year scholarship he won for winning the "world." His goal: to become a professional horse trainer after college. He's still riding rodeo and NJQHA this year, and has already qualified to appear at the National HSRA Championships again. With his bid for AJQHA finals again in August, Rock would like nothing better than a repeat world championship performance—and there's no doubt this ambitious horseman just might pull it off. •••

High-finance Horses

Rock Hedlund's skills as a cutting horse trainer have helped propel this young FFA'er into financial big-time. Not only do his skills command a fair sum, but the wheeling and dealing that goes on in the horse business requires a smart business mind and incredibly good "horse sense" on the part of a buyer/seller, as the following conversation indicates:

"When I bought this mare," Rock says, pointing to the horse in a photo, "I paid $5,000 for it. I sold her for $10,000. Then I flew to Texas, and bought this Palomino horse for $10,000," he gestures. "I sold her for $15,000 and I paid $18,000 for the mare I won the world on. And now I have the chance to sell *her* if they want to pay my price . . ." he pauses.

Okay Rock, I'll bite. What's your price?

"$70,000," he says without so much as a blink of an eye. "We're dickering on her right now. If I get my price, I'll sell her."

At first it sounds unbelievable. But as Rock explains, it's just another part of the horse business—and spoils for the winner.

"The increase in price comes through several reasons," he explains. "First, there's training I've put into her. And I finished out her R. O. M. for quarter horses." ("R. O. M." is a point system where horses earn points showing at different exhibitions and classes.)

"Also," Rock continues, "Her bloodlines are highly sought after. And to top it off, there's the prestige of winning the world."

See what can happen when you become a world champion? •••

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On Empty

(Continued from Page 18)

company became Valmont Industries in 1967.)

Valley made seven pivots in 1954. By 1960 the company was still only making 50 a year. But when the mass exodus from rural areas to the city began in the late 1950s and early 1960s, labor became scarce and some far-sighted irrigators saw the potential for center pivot systems on sandy soils and uneven typography of Nebraska.

As interest grew in Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas, so did the number of companies interested in making pivots. Today, there are several companies making them. It was estimated in 1978 that there are over 50,000 center pivots irrigating more than 6 million acres in the U.S.

And where once upon a time center pivots were only found in the Western half of the U.S., today circles are showing up in Maryland, Delaware, Georgia and other southern and eastern states.

What center pivots did to irrigation in Nebraska and elsewhere in about 20 years is startling. For example, although surface irrigation continues to lead in total number of irrigated acres in Nebraska over sprinkler irrigation, land needing minimal leveling is moving to pivot systems with some regularity.

The Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Nebraska cites two reasons for the change. First, normal surface irrigation is not automated and thus has high labor demands, while in contrast entire fields under center pivots can be irrigated by pushing a button. Second, the *water application efficiency* of surface systems is usually lower, requiring more water for the same area. Efficiencies are often lower because of the large volume of runoff water at the end of the field.

And efficiency is the key. Under normal application, efficiencies for surface irrigation range from 50 to 60 percent, with tailwater accounting for the majority of water lost. "If runoff water can be collected and reused from surface systems, irrigation efficiencies can be increased to more than 90 percent," according to University of Nebraska-Lincoln staff members C. Dean Yonts and Paul Fischbach.

Some blame center pivot irrigation for the decreasing water table in the Greal Plains. The water level has dropped 40 feet in some areas of the Great Plains since the 1960s, when center pivot irrigation took off. Just what is the rate of decrease of the Ogallala? It's difficult to be specific. For example, it's been estimated Texas has consumed 23 percent of its reserves since World War II. Some say the aquifer has dropped an average of four to six feet a year since the beginning of major irrigation development.

Whatever the answer may be, there is little doubt that a problem does indeed exist. In our next issue, Part II of this series focuses on high energy costs, choices we face dealing with water conservation, and a look into the future. Watch for Part II of "Running On Empty" in the October-November, 1982, issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER.* •••

(This story was prepared exclusively for The National Future Farmer by Den Gardner, managing editor of Irrigation Age magazine, a monthly publication reaching 155,000 of the nation's irrigators published by The Webb Company, 1999 Shepard Road, St. Paul, MN 55116.)

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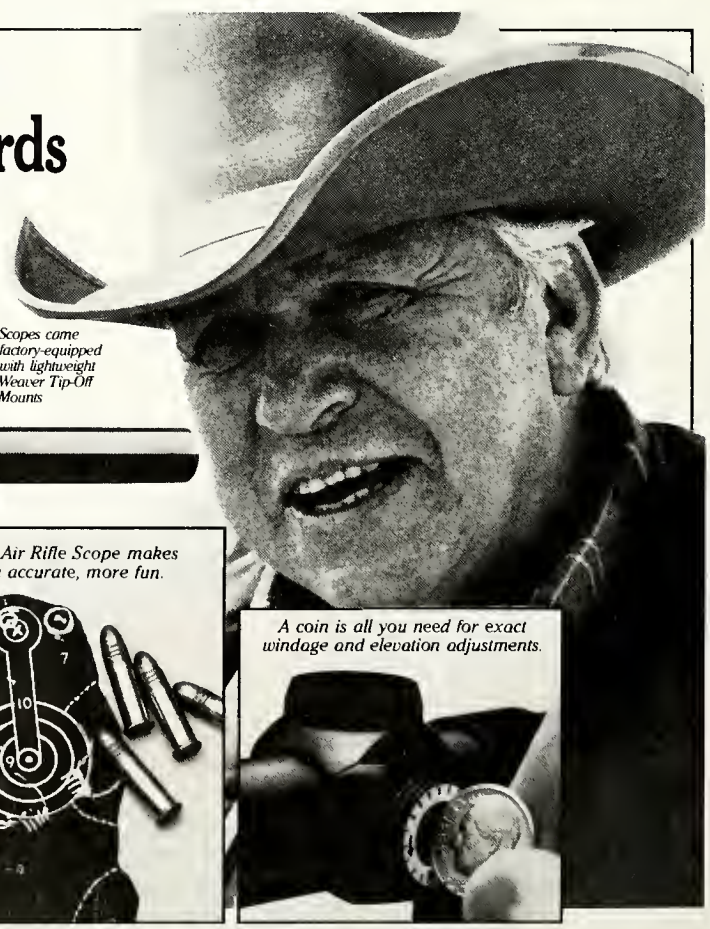

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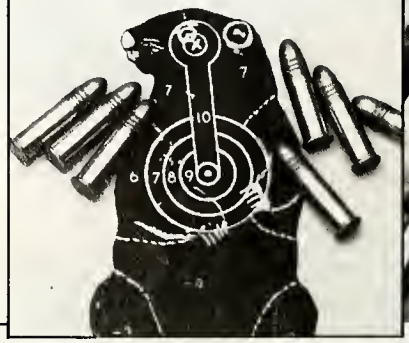

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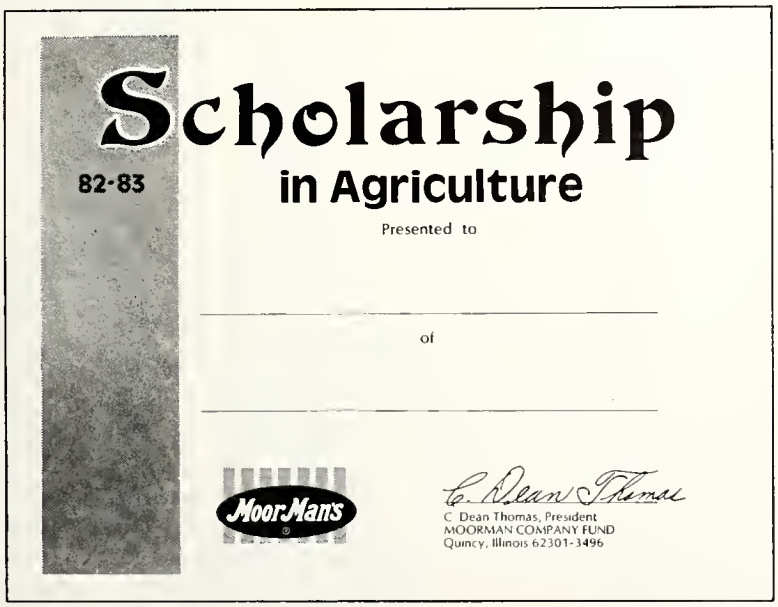

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South Dakota State University, Brookings
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Texas A&M University, College Station
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wyoming, Laramie

The Sutton System For Success

By Michael Wilson

HE stands tall and lean amidst the trees in the forest, one hand clutching his ever-present chain saw, as shades of green and brown flash against a blue December sky. His smile indicates the satisfaction of another workday finally over—and another load of pulpwood ready for early morning delivery.

He is 17-year-old James Sutton, and though he seems more like a lumberjack at times, don't let the chain saw and log splitter fool you.

James just started farming full time, something he's wanted since childhood. But five years ago he knew it

Photos by Author

Above, James positions pulpwood onto his self-loading trailer as his dad (foreground) maneuvers winch system. Below: using a backhoe, James prepares land for fruit-tree development and farm pond.

would be tough financially, so he planned for the future. Now his future is here—and after five years he's saved over $13,000 to help finance his start in farming by cutting pulpwood, clearing land and managing his family's grain and livestock farm near Moultrie, Georgia.

James, newly-graduated from Colquitt County High School, is quick to grab at opportunity. Here in the top pulpwood producing state of Georgia, he takes advantage of surrounding natural resources and provides a service to area residents—culling trees that have recently died from drought, disease or stress. He figures the money he's saved will go far in reducing risk as a beginning farmer.

"A lot of farmers are going broke because of big loans that they have to pay off when they start farming," James says. "To be successful, you've got to plan, decide where you're going . . . What I've done is gradually built up a headstart on the rest of them."

Each afternoon after school, James and an FFA classmate head for the timber to cut trees for pulp. Occasionally a neighbor will want "green" live trees cut, usually on land cleared for housing—but the majority of James' work is with dead wood.

He uses a trailer and self-loading winch system designed and built by himself and his father. He hauls the pulpwood to the buying station in Moultrie with an old pickup truck that was "sitting in the weeds at one time," now revitalized by a new engine and coat of paint. The wood gets delivered at 7:30 a.m. each morning, just before school begins. From Moultrie, the pulpwood is sent to Florida where it is made into paper and other products.

James's trailer can handle about two cords, or 10,500 pounds of wood, and the market price is usually around $45 per cord. He and his older brother own the three chain saws needed for James's work, and he pays for all expenses such as gasoline and maintenance. Up until recently James also cut and sold firewood, but has since devoted that time toward clearing 140 acres of timberland for a pond on the Sutton's farm.

Although his interest in natural resources is strong, James points out his main love is still farming. "James has an in-born love for farm life," agrees R.D. Coleman, James's FFA advisor at Colquitt County High School. "He loves this kind of work, and is looking toward farming as a livelihood."

"This kind of work" includes major responsibility for managing the Sutton's livestock, a commercial herd of 75 Hereford and Chianina cattle. Often James is left on his own to handle the calving, vaccination and dehorning duties because of his father's responsibilities as a State Senator in the Georgia Legislature. Although it's not a full-time job, Franklin Sutton admits lawmaking keeps him away from the farm a great deal; and it looks as if he'll be away even more this summer and fall since his recent decision to run for Lieutenant Governor of Georgia.

"James runs the farm now," says Mr. Sutton. "If it weren't for him I'd probably have to quit the legislature. And when I *do* get back James usually has the shop full of things he wants me to do. When I come home, I come home to work—for him" he adds with a laugh.

When he's not discussing legislation or at the farm, James's father spends time at the family-operated equipment shop in town, aptly known as "The Sutton System." Mr. Sutton's interest in machinery spills over into his hobby: building and designing farm equipment for special uses on the farm. Together he and James have built or made modifications on an impressive array of equipment, including a squash harvester, rotary mower, small grain seeder and cultivator. According to Mr. Sutton, there'll be more where that came from in the future.

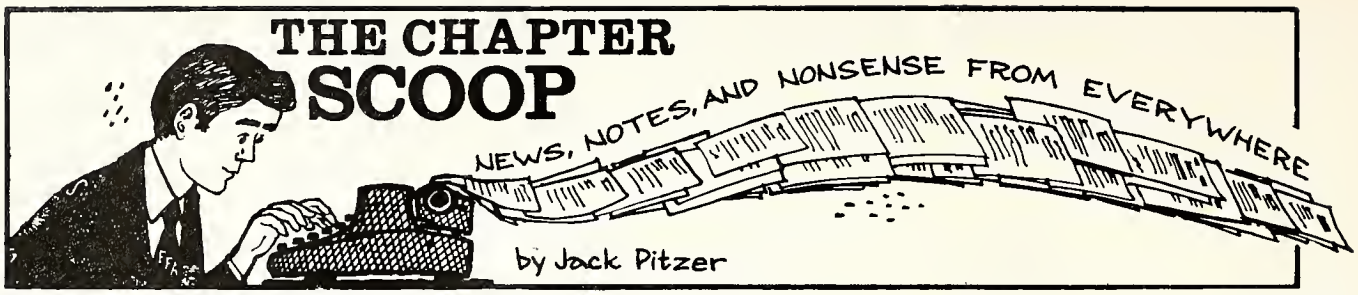
"I've got a headful of equipment to build, if I ever find time," chuckles the state senator. "If I ever get beat in the legislature, you'd better watch out for me."

James's interest in machinery is in building equipment, and his skills were recognized this year as Chapter Ag Mechanics and Chapter Star Farmer award winner. In addition, James has earned his State Farmer degree (called the "Georgia Planter Degree" here) and was named the best record-keeper in the chapter as a senior—no easy task at Colquitt county FFA, one of the largest FFA chapters in the *country* with 374 members and five ag instructors.

James says his future priorities lie in "getting established in a small, practical farming operation—and being successful." His one-step-at-a-time attitude has helped him grow, both personally and financially through the years, and he plans to continue his FFA ambitions pursuing the American Farmer degree. Clearly, his system—"The Sutton System"—will continue to serve him well as he ventures out into his farming career. And with James's foresight for financial planning it's a sure bet the Sutton system will continue to be a success for years to come. •••

James moves in with the Suttons' bulldozer, recently purchased for the big job of leveling the 140-acre tract.

Building farm machinery goes hand in hand with the Sutton's machinery shop. Below: a little advertising.



Gilroy, CA, purchased an FFA billboard from the FFA Supply Service and put it up themselves along Highway 101. From the snapshot they sent along, looks like they did a good job.

N-N-N

The elementary school in *Sapulpa*, OK, held a career day, so FFA took animals as an attention-getter to tell the younger students about the careers in agriculture.

N-N-N

Phil Gibbs, freshman of *Cascade*, IA, Chapter won the junior division of the Hoard's Dairyman judging contest. Prize includes $100.

N-N-N

This year's tractor driving contest for *Cumberland Valley*, PA, FFA attracted 15 entries to maneuver a manure spreader through a tough course. **Rodney Potteiger** took first.

N-N-N

Therese Knowles received the annual $500 *Mansfield*, TX, FFA Alumni scholarship.

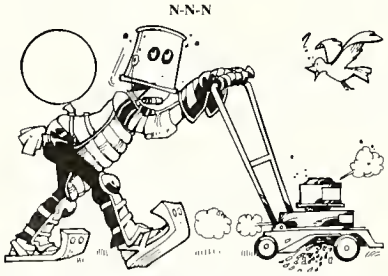
N-N-N

Robert Sabata is the first recipient of a scholarship from *Raymond*, NE, FFA Alumni. Funds for scholarship were earned from joint Alumni and FFA firewood sales during the winter.

N-N-N

Hondo, NM, Chapter hosted an invitational judging contest.

N-N-N



To combat lawnmowing accidents, *Bowling Green*, OH, FFA conducted a clinic for fourth graders demonstrating safe mowing procedures. Good idea!

N-N-N

Lowville, NY, a 100% chapter, made enough to send all members to leadership camp.

N-N-N

John Rosson, in his second term as reporter for *Haywood*, TN, sent word that the chapter planted over a thousand pine seedlings on the school campus.

N-N-N

Newberg, OR, Chapter donated a new lectern to the state association which had been built by **Brad Ward**, **Tim Noble** and **Ron Schleich**.

N-N-N

Moffat County, CO, celebrated its 25th anniversary at the annual banquet and used a slide presentation to review accomplishments from the past.

N-N-N

Unique banquet decorations for *Cory-Rawson*, OH, FFA were antique tractors and machinery.

Bassfield, MS, FFA saluted **Joe Thompson**, guidance counselor at their school, who is a past state FFA president.

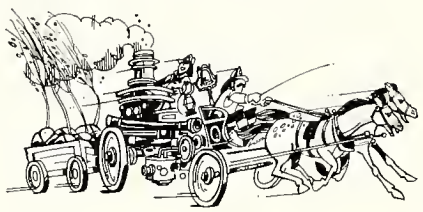
N-N-N

Members of *Kelso*, WA, FFA participated in a logging contest with events such as logging relay, chocker setting, one-man bucking, high climb, ax throw and wood split.

N-N-N

Inviting legislators to chapter banquets is one good idea to consider.

N-N-N



Seventeen *Plentywood*, MT, members with help from Advisor **Pearson** and Extension Agent Anquick, planted 100 trees at the county fairgrounds and a nearby dam. They used the rural fire department's truck to haul water for the project.

N-N-N

Dorman, SC, FFA in Spartanburg publishes "Dorman FFA News" three times per year—once around Christmastime, once as an FFA WEEK special and once about state convention time.

N-N-N

Zillah, WA, had 35 members sign up for tractor driving school (completion gets you a permit to operate a tractor under age 16). Then for a final, they had a driving contest. **Tom Schneider** won this one.

N-N-N

The Greenhands operated a petting zoo for kindergarten and a "soft sell" recruitment for eighth graders in *Mt. Pulaski*, IL.

N-N-N

Often reporters write and ask for suggestions as to what to send in to the national magazine (as did new Reporter **Edgar Hornback** of *Ovid-Elsie*, MI). Biggest suggestion is to zero in on a particular point or story or new item and give complete coverage of it—full details.

N-N-N

After the *Caddo Hills*, AR, early afternoon chapter banquet, they competed in contests like cow chip throwing, "Coke" guzzling, watermelon seed spitting, log sawing, arm wrestling, hog calling and pig catching.

N-N-N

FFA at *Chief Logan* High School in Ohio helped other school groups host an annual Alumni day which features an ox roast and reunions for each class later in the day.

N-N-N

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs honored *Winter Park* FFA for their work in school beautification and conservation.

N-N-N

Chapter sweetheart **Jill Schlosser** gave the welcome for *Selah*, WA, Chapter banquet.

Received several reports from different chapters about banquets—often listing Honorary Chapter Farmers, but never telling why they were honored. Bet there are some good ideas out there.

N-N-N

Ever heard of a Supporter Call-a-thon? *Oshkosh West*, WI, called the agriculture businesses to say thank you for support during the year.

N-N-N

Forrest-Strawn-Wing FFA and Alumni in IL held an agribusiness show with over 50 exhibitors' booths, pork chop dinner and guest speakers.

N-N-N

Mitchell, NE, sponsored an all-school country-western dance after their parent-member banquet. Paid for from slave sale proceeds.

N-N-N

Then in other sports action, the *Queen Anne's*, MD, County Chapter defeated the *Kent County*, MD, Chapter in a big rousing game of volleyball.

N-N-N

Wauseon, OH, members built a poll-barn to store equipment. A barn warming is being planned with the Alumni.

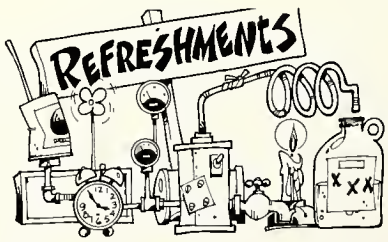
N-N-N

Gretna Junior High FFA in VA invited rescue squad to speak at their monthly chapter meeting.

N-N-N

Merino, CO, expanded the citrus sale to include pineapples, potatoes and celery. All the new items sold well.

N-N-N



In order to attract customers to their refreshment stand, the *Helmet*, CA, FFA Chapter built it to look like a still (and with help of dry ice it even puffed smoke). The Stillery sold "Mountain Dew" and was a financial success according to **Donna Darling**, reporter.

N-N-N

They label it a "Home Grown Banquet" at the *Coast Union*, CA, FFA since all the food is grown or raised by members.

N-N-N

Sheldon Callahan, president of the *Mt. Vernon*, IN, Chapter was interviewed on a local news report titled "Karen Laton's High School Diary: A Closer-Look." His topic was drug problems in today's high schools.

N-N-N

What did your chapter do during the summer to involve Greenhands, to prepare for the fall schedule, to have fun, to train new leaders? Share the ideas via Scoop.

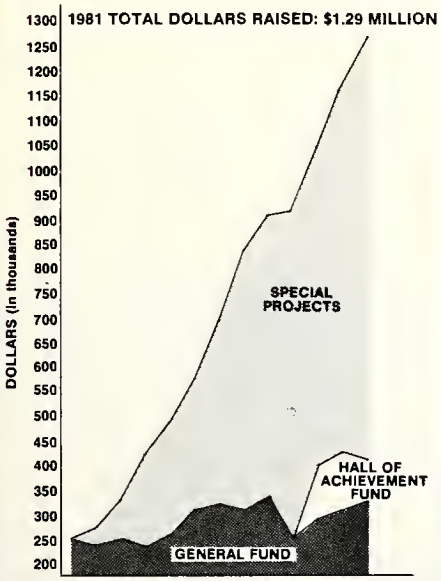
Foundation

(Continued from Page 21)

FFA members. Among those first 15 sponsors that year were Firestone Tire and Rubber Company and Union Carbide, who are still contributing today. Forty thousand dollars was collected that year and used to sponsor public speaking awards and Star Farmer recognition.

Today, Foundation funds make possible all kinds of programs, from livestock judging contests to scholarships for attending leadership conferences in Washington, D.C.

A major development came in 1969 when the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee offices were established with a full-time Executive Director for the organization. The move provided for continuity between changing sponsors each year, and enabled the Foundation to follow up with sponsors who wanted to make a long-term commitment to a particular program or activity.



DOLLARS RAISED THROUGH DIFFERENT TYPES OF FUNDING, 1969-1981 NATIONAL FFA FOUNDATION SPONSORING COMMITTEE

Another important development came in 1970, when the Foundation first initiated the concept of "special projects" among sponsors. Instead of supporting FFA members through a general fund, a company could then invest in an activity that paralleled their own interests.

"Because it parallels their interest and because of the visibility they get, a company will be willing to spend considerably more money to support a specific program," says Mr. Staller.

But it's not just visibility companies want out of special projects, Mr. Staller says. Companies like to invest in their future—and often-times FFA members of today make good employees tomorrow.

"These companies are not sponsoring so much for the visibility as they are for the *relationship* between what the project does and what the company does," he says.

The Foundation effort is headed up each year by a Foundation Sponsoring Committee Chairman, a position filled from the ranks of America's leading agribusiness corporations. (See Page 21.) Although they spend only one year as chairman, often their commitment to the FFA will run as long as six years of involvement; some, a lifetime.

"I think the chairmen we have are very interested in young people," says Mr. Staller. "Some of the people, like this year's Chairman Lu Achilles Wall, have been involved in the Foundation since the late '60s."

These people really do believe in FFA and young people. •••

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Trapping: More Than a Western

Bret Frye's favorite pasttime—fur trapping—also provides a critical service to Wyoming ranchers

By Michael Wilson

MENTION "Wyoming" to someone and most often visions of cowboys and horses come to mind, a real-life home-on-the-range filled with rugged mountains and beautiful countryside, a place where the frontier still exists, where cattle and sheep graze peacefully on endless horizons.

It's all true. But there's also a not-so-pretty scenario that lurks in the backs of the minds of ranchers here in Wyoming; predators which destroy livestock. And it's one reason why fur trapping in Wyoming is not only a rich part of the West's heritage, but also one of the most effective means for selective control of predator and fur bearing populations.

Enter Bret Frye, 18-year-old state FFA Fish and Wildlife winner from Douglas, Wyoming. Bret makes it his business to know and understand about predator populations. He and his father Merlen own and operate "Frye's Hide and Fur," a fur buying station here in Douglas. For Bret, trapping started out as a hobby several years ago—but his interest intensified so much he now plans to eventually take over the family fur business and become a fish and game conservation officer.

And as the following statistics indicate, the trapping industry provides a more important service than just supplying material for pretty coats.

According to USDA, predators are an on-going problem in the West, particularly for sheep ranchers. In 1981 prairie losses on sheep and lambs totalled 182,000 deaths—86,700 caused by predators such as coyotes, wild dogs and bobcats. Of these, coyotes are the primary cause, killing about 70,000 sheep and lambs in 1981 alone. So most ranchers are grateful for businesses like Frye's—and trappers like Bret.

At left: with an elk as spectator, Bret displays trophies reaped from a recent trapping excursion. Below: as a successful trapper, Bret must use his skills and experience with nature to find the best places to set and bait his traps; often, those spots are found on the banks of waterways.

Photos by Author

Bret and his father stretch a beaver skin at Frye's Hide and Fur.

"We got involved in the buying end of trapping because there wasn't any market in this part of the country ten years ago," says Bret. "You had to send it to New York before you could sell it. But the family has always been involved in trapping."

"Now," adds Mr. Frye, "there's a lot of small dealers like myself in this part of the country, that do anywhere between $200,000 to three-quarters of a million dollars worth of business each year."

The Frye's primary business is to buy, process and sell furs. Often furs come into the station on a carcass and need to be skinned or stretched on a mount. Then they're graded and sorted as to color, quality and size. The Frye's get several kinds of furskins such as bobcat, skunk, raccoon, fox, badger and beaver. Bret says the most common fur, though, is coyote.

"We'll sell about 3,000 coyotes a year," Bret says. And at about $50 to $65 per fur, the dollars can add up. But, he adds, the wholesale side of the market is not where the big money is. "The mark-up is tremendous after we sell it. I'll bet there's a 100 percent mark-up on the retail level."

Once furs are combed, skinned, stretched, graded, sorted or mounted, they're ready to be shipped to New York where they'll be made into coats, hats and other apparel. But first, the Frye's must "package" their product.

"We've got a baler that we bale furs into 150-pound bales and ship them bulk," says Bret. And what is one bale worth?

"That depends on what skins are in it," he explains. "If it's coyote skins there's probably around 120 furs in the bale; but if it's beaver, there's probably only 80 skins in it worth only $15 each. Then again," he adds, "If it's bobcat, which are expensive and don't weight very much to begin with . . ." he pauses.

"Put it this way—you wouldn't want anyone to rip one off."

Throughout the summer months, Bret works for his dad's turf and landscaping business and earned top FFA honors at state level for his efforts. But he's the first to tell you his main love is trapping and the fur buying station.

"Next year, he's going to take me out on the road with him and show me all the fundamentals," Bret says of his dad. "And then I'll be going out and buying from other dealers while he'll be buying here in the shop.

"It's like a partnership between us," he adds.

Nature's Detective

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of Bret's livelihood is the actual trapping process. As a successful trapper, Bret possesses all the skills of a detective in a mystery novel, but with Mother Nature supplying the clues.

The first thing Bret does when trapping is to check a given area to see if it's populated. He can recognize animals like beaver, bobcat and coyote by their tracks, and he knows what different animals eat. He keeps a sharp eye checking for tell-tale marks on trees or tree shavings.

Bret uses a wide assortment of steel traps, appropriately sized for each varmint. He knows how to set and cover traps, then bait them with special scents extracted from varmints already destroyed. He can sniff out a coyote's den by tracking and calling, and he's learned to determine how much wildlife could be found in given areas by studying the types and availability of food. What's more, he knows that predators, specifically beavers, can cause problems for a rancher—and never even come *near* livestock.

"Beavers will dam up an irrigation ditch so the rancher can't get water to his crop," Bret says. That's a problem where the main crop is alfalfa hay, more dependent on water than most crops.

Bill Stewart, Bret's FFA advisor and long-time Wyoming resident, agrees. He's seen the kind of damage a beaver can do.

"You get a nice-looking grove of aspen trees and they'll just clean it right out," he says emphatically. "They'll leave a stub about this high off the ground," he says gesturing ankle high, "and a cow will go running through there and rip herself open."

Bret says he plans to attend college soon to study wildlife conservation and become a game warden, plus buying fur as his own boss. He often talks to area game wardens and quickly picked up many conservation tips practiced by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. What is more, Bret has learned what integrity and high standards mean in a job, and plans to carry on those high ideals as he ventures into wildlife as a career. If his past achievements are any indication, Bret is sure to do just that—and that's good news for Wyoming ranchers. ●●●

From muskrats to bears, Bret owns a wide assortment of steel traps, appropriately sized for each varmint; he uses special scents as bait.

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Friendship For America

Where else but in America could a Cheyenne Indian and Vietnamese refugee share friendship and patriotism for their country?

By Pat Kourt

PERHAPS a founding American father, William Penn, had a particular circumstance in mind when he said: "There can be no friendship where there is no freedom." Although his thoughts are more than two centuries old, two young men who reside in rural Thomas, Oklahoma, believe those words are even more relevant in today's complex world.

Meet Bao Vu, 19, and Bill TallBear, Jr., 17, who for the past year have planted the seeds and nurtured the growth of an important friendship. Probably nowhere else in America exist a Vietnamese refugee and a full-blooded Cheyenne Indian who have found they share in common so many personality traits and favorites.

Their friendship began, as Bill tells the story, "after I returned home from WCP (Washington Conference Program), and I was excited about the new-found confidence in myself about smiling, meeting new people, speaking before large groups, and exchanging cooperation and leadership ideas with FFA members from across the nation. The conference—actually the whole FFA experience—has opened me up. I was no longer the shy little Indian boy I had once been."

Bill's self-assurance came just in time to give an all-American welcome to Bao, who had just spent one year alone in Indonesia after leaving his native home of Vung Tao, Viet Nam. Bill considered himself shy prior to joining the Future Farmers, but orphaned, homeless Bao was terrified as he walked into his first class at Thomas High School. Knowing only his oriental language, Bao relied on his pleasant smile to help him communicate.

"I knew no one, only Leroy and Ruth Miller, wheat farmers who sponsor me through their church," as he recalls. "I was really scared those first days. But I like this country. Farms are big and beautiful. In Vung Tao, we do farming by hand. These machines are so big and I like driving the tractor. People in America are so happy; families are easier to take care of. In Viet Nam, many starve; wheat fields in Oklahoma feed many. It is a beautiful country."

With Bao's growing appreciation for his new situation and Bill's outgoing leadership qualities, the two teens enrolled as juniors in the fall of 1981 and found themselves together in several classes. With no English language background, Bao depends on his friend Bill to explain many words most Americans take for granted. One difficult phrase for Bill to define was "sense of humor," of which they both have in abundance.

Bill, serving as the local FFA president, says the experience of teaching and explaining on a one-to-one basis, as he has with Bao, offers valuable experience for his future goal—to become a vo-ag instructor.

Bao, too, has a dream for the future. He wants to use his mathematics skills to pursue a career involving computers.

George Washington, a master agriculturist of his time, noted: "Friendship is a plant of slow growth." As time passes, friendships like Bao and Bill's will strengthen our communities and reap a harvest of important values which will benefit the entire world. •••

Bao Vu, left, and Bill TallBear, right: friendship built on common interests and an appreciation for America.

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ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Even a Little Victory Is Something Special

A track and field day for special education students sounded like a good idea five years ago, when members of the Red Wing, Minnesota, Future Farmers of America were looking for a BOAC project.

Advisor Steve Nelson hoped it would teach the Central High School FFA'ers a lesson in human relations, give them a better understanding of the needs and desires of this special group of people. He wanted to impress on his students the importance of civic responsibilities, the value of doing something with no monetary return.

What happened during the next five years far exceeded Nelson's goals. The word "special" has taken on a whole new meaning for the FFA'ers and for the retarded and handicapped children and adults who participate in what has grown to become a regional athletic competition.

The first year everything was new to the students. They expected their project to take a lot of time and effort, and it did.

Each FFA member became a very important someone, yet the students never thought of themselves that way. Starting with the very first field day, which attracted 110 Red Wing special education students, the FFA'ers always knew where the spotlight belonged.

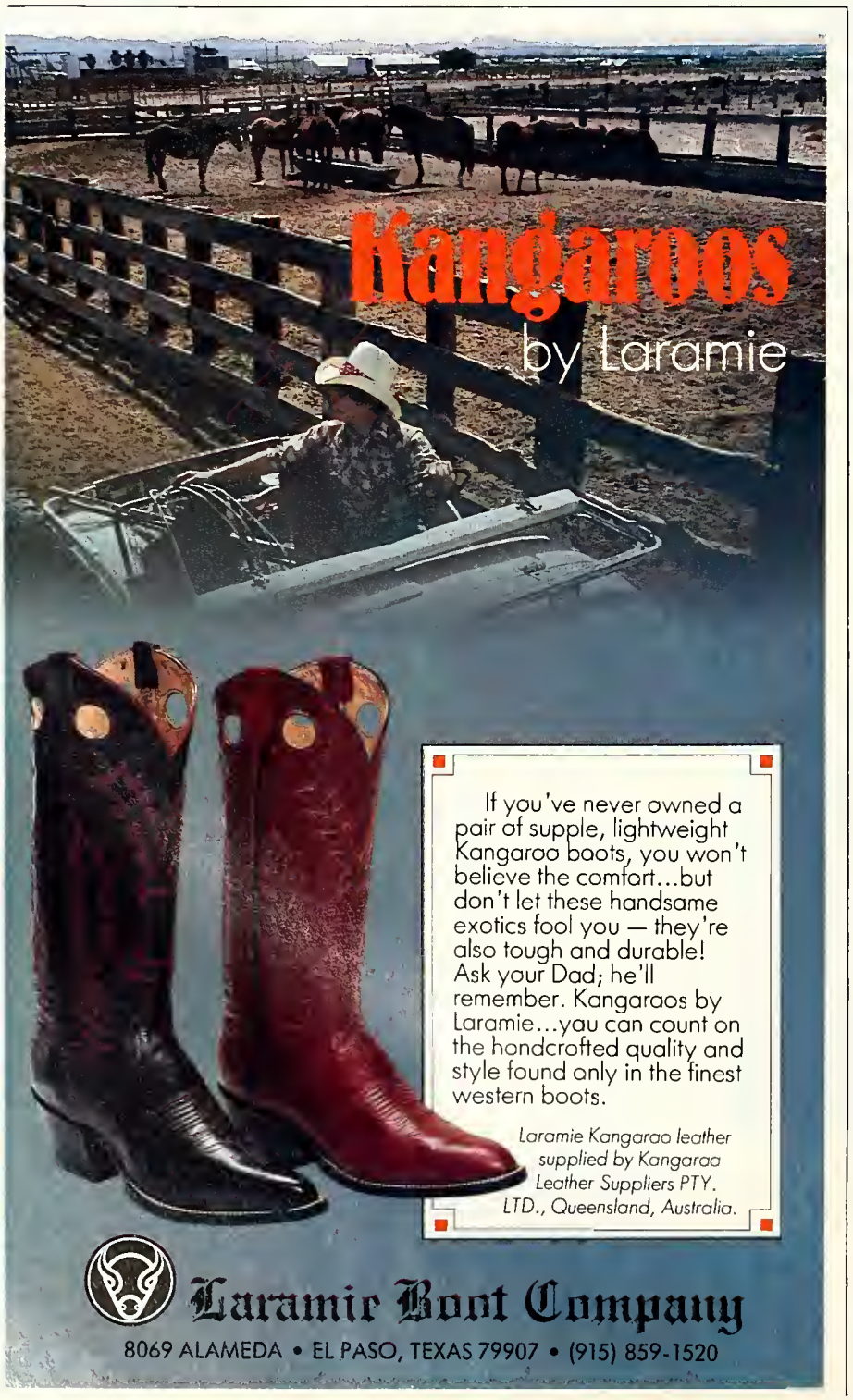
Each year there is a regional Special Olympics meet at which handicapped athletes compete to advance to the state Olympics. It has always been held in Fairbault, Minnesota. But when Red Wing offered to host the regional meet in 1982, the FFA'ers stood ready to help do for 500 what they had done for half that number of competitors.

All that the students had learned the previous years stood them in good stead when May 1 rolled around. Each FFA'er knew his or her duties. They waited with other community volunteers at the athletic field for the athletes to arrive.

Lori Alpers described one race. "Every second lasted five. The racers edged toward the finish line. Their chests heaved as they gasped for air and their faces grimaced in concentration and exhaustion. The spectators cheered and applauded as the racers pushed themselves on. One by one the athletes crossed the finish line—the race was over. The winning time for the 30-meter wheelchair race was 1 minute, 25 seconds."

Lori noticed how much an encouraging word could help a racer. Her attention was drawn to a volunteer whose job was to time the racer in one particular lane.

During one heat, all the racers were done while the boy in his lane had barely started. The volunteer yelled enthusiastically. The boy could move only centimeters at a time. For each move forward, more spectators gathered to applaud him. We were as one, all trying to help this boy finish. The boy didn't win a ribbon, but he deserved one just for having the determination to finish. •••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FFA IN ACTION

WHERE DO FISH COME FROM

Members of the Fairbanks, Ohio, FFA visited the state fishery department in London, Ohio. They had the opportunity to see how the Department of Ohio National Resources raised the brown and golden rainbow trout found throughout the state's public parks and lakes. Members observed the hatching facilities, the trout run, new feeding techniques and the operational procedure of the entire facility. *(Kirk Scott, Reporter)*

MILESTONES OF CONSERVATION

In Iowa, the Hudson Chapter has set up the "Conservation Mile"—a 2½-mile stretch of gravel road located 1½ miles north of Hudson on Highway 58 on West Strayer Road. On this road you will see signs showing soil loss on a comparison of different tillage methods and crop rotation.

This project is sponsored by the FFA's BOAC committee and the Black Hawk Soil Conservation District.

Each soil loss is figured on Kenyon soil, 2-5 percent slope, and a 200-foot slope length. Each farmer along this road has below the average soil loss for the county which is 7.6 tons per acre. The rotation is symbolized by the red letters in the upper right hand corner of the sign: C = corn, B = beans, O = Oats, M = meadow. The signs also include the method of tillage used and the tons of soil loss per acre.

A special handout and map-like chart explains the facts for drive-yourself observers. At the bottom they reminded folks to drive carefully.

TREES FOR TOMORROW

In accordance with Bowling Green, Ohio, Mayor Perkins' Arbor Day theme "Plant a Tree For Yourself and Bowling Green," the FFA celebrated Arbor Day by planting three trees in two different areas of the community.

A redbud and a white crabapple were planted in the courtyard at the high school. This planting complements the work of first-year vocational agricultural students who are studying a unit of horticulture and have used the courtyard as their laboratory. Earlier as part of their lawn renovation and maintenance unit, they raked, rolled, fertilized and applied crabgrass control chemicals. Yet to come in the unit is tree and shrub selection, planting, pruning and general cultural practices, plus landscaping principles, all will be practiced in the courtyard.

Another redbud tree was placed at the FFA's Farm Agricultural Museum Complex at the Wood County Fairgrounds to help complete the landscape of the area for appearance and to provide a restful shady spot for fairgoers this year and in the future.

Trees were donated by the FFA and Natures' Way Landscape, Inc.

OAK HARBOR FFA SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The Oak Harbor, Ohio, Chapter went on an interesting and fun field trip the first week of June as a summer activity.

At Select Sires, Inc., located in Plain City, Ohio, members learned about livestock evaluation, pedigrees, livestock selection, livestock breeding, artificial insemination and embryo transplanting.

Members attending the trip were Richard Avery, Steve Hablitzel, Kevin Stone, Scott Schimming, Tim Velliquette, Howard Kardatzke, Bob Kitzler, Joe Braun, Mike Almendinger, Tim Smarkel, Bruce Schultz and Larry Chambers.

One very interesting fact learned by the members was about the embryo transplanting that is being done. The larger embryos are being split to form identical twin calves which are transplanted in the reproductive tract of donor cows. Another new aspect in livestock breeding is egg-mating, where an egg is mated with another egg without the use of semen so that sex of offspring can be determined at conception. *(Rick Goldstein, Reporter)*

CEREMONIAL DELIVERY

On March 23, 1982, nine Hiawatha, Illinois, FFA members took a big step in the FFA. That night they received their FFA Greenhand degrees. But one member was not there to be honored with his classmates. Jay Roach was in the hospital with pins in his left leg and hip. Jay was missed at the ceremony and Miss Erdman,

Denise West, fellow Greenhand initiate, congratulates Jay Roach following the "surprise" ceremony conducted in his hospital room.

Hiawatha advisor, did something about it.

The chapter officers and some of Jay's fellow Greenhands and friends went to the hospital to conduct the Greenhand ceremony for him. They held the official ceremony right there in Jay's hospital room. During the ceremony Jay was presented with his Greenhand pin and certificate by Elaine Robertson, chapter president, while his parents and brother stood proudly by.

Jay's father, brother Neal and he were in an automobile accident over the Christmas holidays. They were on their way home from a community college basketball game, in which Neal had played. Jay's father and brother weren't hurt as badly as Jay.

Many FFA'ers will receive the degrec of Greenhand this year, but to the Hiawatha FFA Chapter in Kirkland, Illinois, this was one of the most meaningful ceremonies they would conduct. *(Joe Perkins and Tom Howe, Reporters)*

BLUEBIRDS OVER OHIO

The Smithville, Ohio, FFA Chapter is working hard to prepare a bluebird trail in the Wayne County, Ohio, area. The FFA is a two-year member of the National Bluebird Society and is trying to repopulate the area with the Eastern Bluebird. It is nearly extinct due to limited housing.

(Continued on Page 42)

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FFA IN ACTION

(Pick up ACTION from Page 40)

Smithville students are building birdhouses specifically for the bluebird. Approximately 50 houses will be built, painted and stationed at points along a projected bluebird trail.

Our chapter conducted a survey at the Wayne County Fair to get the names of county residents interested in seeing a bluebird trail established. The FFA also constructed a booth at the fair to explain the reason why a bluebird trail is necessary, and how interested partisans could help. Free literature was made available to the public. *(Dave Drake, Reporter)*

WALL TO WALL WINNERS

The Cleburne, Texas, FFA Chapter was chartered in 1938 and had its first Lone Star Farmer, Olen Ricketts, in 1947. Ricketts was also the chapter's first American Farmer in 1948. Since that time the chapter has earned 127 Lone Star Farmer and 15 American Farmers.

This year the chapter and advisors decided to create a lasting record of these achievements.

With this in mind, members made two plaques. One is a map of Texas, with an engraved nameplate for each of the 127 recipients together with the year in which

Advisors Tommy Webb, left, and A.D. Wheat, right, created large plaques to use in recognizing the large number of State and American Farmer Degrees earned by members over the years.

they received the honor. A similar plaque uses the United States map and honors the American Farmers in the same manner. Both plaques were cut from quality plywood, sanded, stained, varnished and the nameplates mounted. The plaques will be mounted with the other awards and honors in a special place in the high school. *(A.D. Wheat, Advisor)*

See Yourself in a Calendar Picture!

Through the 1983 FFA Calendar Program it is now possible for your chapter to order calendars with a photo of you and your fellow members as a main illustration.

Also you or your chapter can get other styles of FFA calendars. Chapter advisors have been mailed a 2-step Calendar Program brochure. Ask about it.

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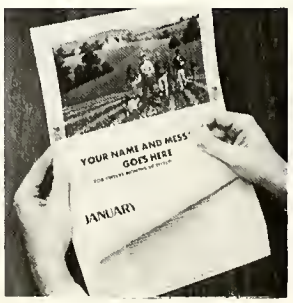

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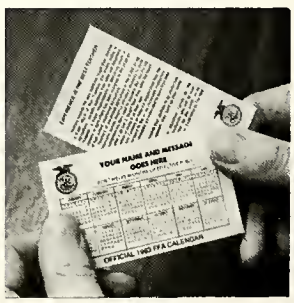


Wallet Style

NATIONAL OFFICER *ACTION* UPDATE: JET LAG

The exciting life of a national officer can add up to some pretty interesting statistics. For example, in the first six months of their official duties, each of the six national officers has been to at least 20 different states; traveled abroad; and has traveled about 100,000 miles each. They've each managed to squeeze in about 20 speaking engagements at FFA banquets as well.

All that travel and official duty has had its wear and tear on their official jackets as well—each officer is on the third jacket for this year. (They usually use five for the whole year.) Beside official jackets, national officers are issued tie or scarf, key chain and a supply of letterhead and thank you notes. They are great at using them, too. National officers know the importance of a sincere thank you for a meal function or for special courtesies from a member or member's family.

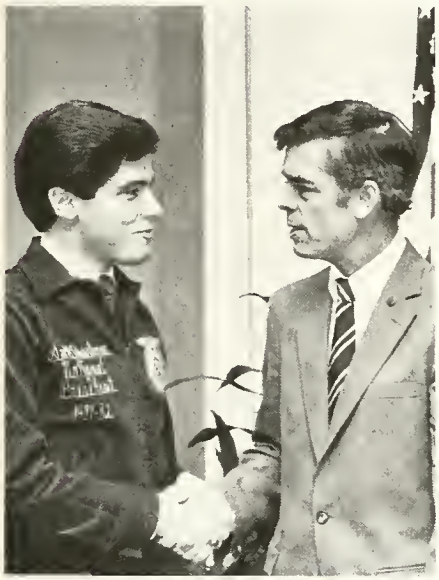
Individually the officers have been on a variety of assignments including state conventions. Each week of the Washington Conference Program this summer a national officer is on hand to work with and speak to participants.

Earlier this year Scott Neasham, national president from Iowa, attended the first meeting of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Advisory Council on Rural Development. He was named to the 22-member council in February by Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block.

Discussed at the meeting were issues affecting rural communities such as the impact of new federalism, regulatory reform, private sector initiatives and federal programs designed to aid small towns and rural areas.

The co-chairman of the council, Frank W. Naylor, Jr., who is under secretary of agriculture for small community and rural development, said that National Advisory Council members "are expected to play a

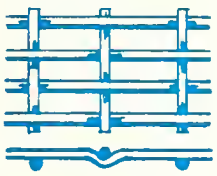
(Continued on Page 44)



National President Scott Neasham met with Secretary of Agriculture Block in Washington during a meeting of the National Advisory Council on Rural Development to which Scott was appointed.

"I'm sorry, but a course in money and finance is required before driver training—we want to be sure you can afford to buy the gasoline."

PRODUCTS FOR PIGS



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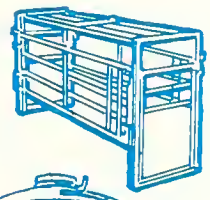

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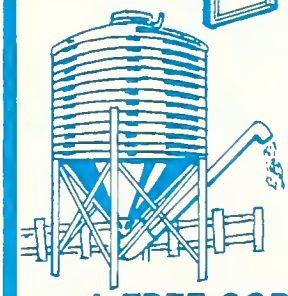

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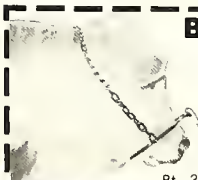

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FFA IN ACTION

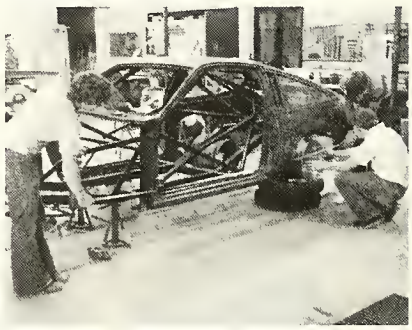
(Pick-up ACTION from Page 43)

leading role in assisting USDA's Office of Rural Development Policy determine the concerns of rural America."

MAN'S BEST FRIEND ON TRIAL

Harrisburg, Oregon, FFA members hosted their second annual Open Sheep Dog Trials in April, at Eldon Townsend's sheep barn. Sunny weather and a good trial drew a crowd of 70. The dog trials were held in cooperation with the Oregon Sheep Dog Society and included 12 dogs with 9 handlers. The FFA also served a lunch of barbequed lamb. *(Paige Havlin, Reporter)*

SUPER GAS



Members of the Gackle, North Dakota, FFA are rigging up a 1977 Buick Skyhawk automobile for drag racing in a class called Super Gas—a class that a car must run 9.90 seconds or faster in a 1/4-mile race track. Advisor Hebron Smith is supervising the car's construction and will be its driver. The car will feature the FFA truck emblem on its side as well as insignias from companies who provided parts. The car will be powered by a 468-cubic-inch big block Chevrolet.

ACTION LINES:

- Learn how to spell Wednesday.
- Celebrate your folks' wedding anniversary.
- Put *The National FUTURE FARMER* in school library.
- Volunteer to give the Scholarship Committee new life.
- Buy a used tennis racket.
- Make extra money by selling popcorn you've grown.
- Wash the chapter pickup.
- Organize a crew to police the area around the ag shop.
- Invite someone to the party who doesn't usually get an invite.
- Offer a compliment on her election to office.
- Can you stop biting your nails?
- Put a blackboard up by the phone.
- Ask someone else their opinion during the discussion.

FACTS FOR ACTION

When working with fertilizers, pesticides and any farm chemicals, you may suffer a severe eye injury—and possible blindness—unless you wear appropriate eye protection, warns the National Society to Prevent Blindness.

"More than half of all agricultural eye injuries over the past few years involved chemicals, according to reports from hospital emergency rooms," says the Society's executive director, Virginia S. Boyce. "Ninety percent of eye injuries could be prevented with the use of proper protective eyewear and safety precautions."

Boyce says when you handle fertilizers, pesticides, chemical cleaners and solvents, wear goggles that fit snugly around the eyes, with hooded vents to keep out liquids. A face shield placed over the goggles provides maximum protection from these caustic, toxic and often flammable substances.

The Society also offers these safety tips:

- Study the product's label for correct use and observe listed precautions.
- Understand thoroughly how to operate all eqiupment prior to use.
- Always store pesticides in original containers, keeping them tightly closed.
- Carry at least five gallons of plain water on tractors and other farm equipment.

Should any chemicals reach the eyes, flush them with water instantly, holding the eyelids open, and continue for at least 15 minutes. Then seek immediate medical attention.

Highly concentrated liquid (and gaseous) fertilizers can inflict serious injuries. Of special concern is anhydrous ammonia, a gas pressurized to liquid state and used to boost crop production. One of the most damaging substances to the eye, anhydrous ammonia begins destroying cells and tissues within seconds of contact. In addition to carrying at least five gallons of water on the tractor, nurse tank and applicator, all anhydrous ammonia users should keep a plastic squeeze bottle of water in a shirt pocket to flush the eyes immediately, in case of contact with anhydrous.

Many eye injuries occur when pressurized anhydrous ammonia is transferred from bulk containers to smaller tanks, a process repeated several times. "Check all hose fittings and connections in equipment every day," Boyce says. "Just one minor defect—a weak point in a hose, faulty valve, a worn fitting—and eyesight may be threatened."

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The New FFA Program Catalog tells you all about FFA activities and awards—from BOAC to Beef Proficiency to National Band. Then it lets you order the applications and materials you need to dig in and participate.

The FFA Supply Service Catalog offers a great selection of sale items—from jackets to jewelry, from pencils to plaques. Plus—everything your chapter needs to get involved with National FFA Week and the FFA Calendar Program.

The New FFA Program Catalog and the FFA Supply Service Catalog. Use them together to make YOUR FFA involvement complete !

Snow Job

PROVIDING accurate moisture predictions for a farmer's growing season is a crucial job especially in northern Utah where dry climates make water more precious than gold at times.

But each month, FFA members from Grantsville, Utah, pull a "snow job" to help make those moisture predictions. Mounting horses, four-wheel drives, snowmobiles and even by foot, members travel up into nearby mountain ranges where they make snow surveys – part of a Soil Conservation Services (SCS) western-wide network of snow survey courses. And it's one BOAC project that

provides a service most farmers wouldn't want to be without.

"This has been our first year," says Jerry Hurst, vo-ag instructor at Grantsville. Mr. Hurst previously taught at nearby Tooele High School, which had been involved making snow surveys in the past. "When they called to see if we wanted to take it over, we said, 'Sure.'"

The farmers in the valleys near Grantsville grow mostly alfalfa for hay and small grains—wheat and oats. Because of the climate, water levels are always of interest to farmers.

"We usually only get about ten inches of rainfall per year," says Mr. Hurst. "It's an arid region, so we depend heavily on the runoff from the mountains for our agriculture. Most of the water that's used is going to come from mountain streams."

Grantsville FFA'ers begin the mountain treks in October and don't let up until the end of June. "We don't go in July and August because it'd be too late to make forecasts for the farmer's growing season," Mr. Hurst explains.

The snow survey trips sound like quite an adventure. But as past chapter President James Christensen says, it can also be hard work.

"The actual measuring of the snow is pretty simple," he says. James, now a senior, has gone on each of the mountain trips since the chapter took on the project. "But getting up there is something else." James says some journeys require a 140-mile round trip.

"When the students make the trek it's difficult to find vehicles that will go up there," adds Mr. Hurst. "The best thing to use is snowmobiles, but not all students have them." Often winter blizzards make the terrain impossible—even for trained SCS personnel.

"The sites that are more accessible we go to each month," Mr. Hurst continues. "But the others, the SCS hires a helicopter to fly into to check readings."

Once on location, FFA members take a "snow rating" by pushing through the white stuff with special equipment provided by the SCS. This checks inches of snow.

"Then we have to weigh it and the weight transfers into inches of water," says Mr. Hurst. As a double check, the FFA'ers use a precipitation gauge for melting snow into its liquid form with antifreeze. Two of the four separate sites covered by the Grantsville FFA members include reservoirs, so the FFA'ers also take water readings.

The information collected is sent to the SCS. "We have a form to fill out with all the information they need," says Mr. Hurst. "Then they use the information to give the farmers good insight for water."

Three of the four snow survey sites are electronically monitored—a new innovation whereby information is broadcast directly to SCS offices from the sites. But, so far, the new electronic monitoring system hasn't proven totally accurate. "So we're doing the snow survey in those three areas to see how accurate those readings are," Mr. Hurst says.

The idea of checking snow levels to forecast moisture came about in the early 1900s at the University of Nevada and has since remained a western concept. The first efforts merely determined the depth of accumulated snowfall. Only later were surveys used to determine forecasts for irrigation water through the growing season.

Snow survey information is presently collected from a network of nearly 1,200 snow courses covering ten western states including Alaska. Many sites are visited regularly by trained snow surveyors in aircraft, sno-cats and snowmobiles; other locations still require ski or snowshoe travel. The snow survey supervisors use the data for water supply outlook publications and more than 8,000 individuals receive the reports. In addition, the SCS and the National Weather Service issue monthly west-wide reports January through May, and information is passed on through newspapers, radio and television.

SCS officials say snow surveys and water supply forecasting are critical to the management and wise use of water resources. Without them, irrigators and other water users would have little indication of how much water would be available throughout the year.

Here in northern Utah however, there's no need to worry about going without—as long as BOAC programs like Grantsville FFA's "snow job" continue to provide this vital community service. ●●●

Left, FFA members from Grantsville, Utah, make one last equipment check in preparation for their monthly journey into surrounding mountain ranges. Says James Christensen (holding equipment): "Measuring the snow is pretty simple, but getting up there is something else."

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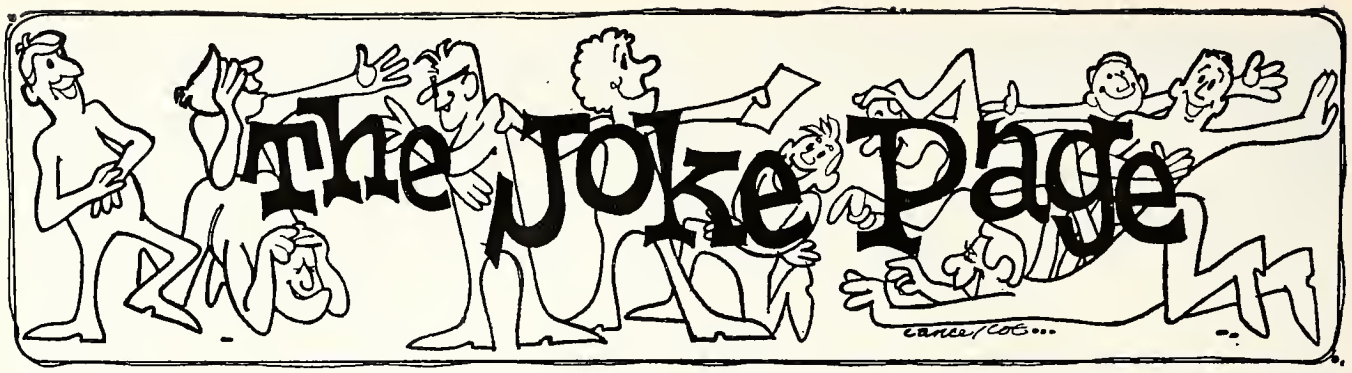


When Bill died and went to heaven he asked for a chance to go visit his best friend Stan Frand and talk about heaven. He took along a harp to show Stan and maybe persuade him. To his surprise, things were jumping. His friend Stan had set up a disco. As Bill returned to heaven, he was asked about his harp he had forgotten. *"I left my harp in Stan Frand's disco,"* he replied.

Justin Cazel
Sullivan, Illinois

A mountain woman found a mirror, the first she had ever seen. She looked into it and what she saw surprised her to no end. *"Why, it's a picture of my old mother,"* she exclaimed. In seeking a safe place for it, she hid the mirror under the bed. Her husband saw her, however, and when she left the house he slipped the mirror out from under the bed. He looked into it and snorted, *"So that's the ugly varmint she's gone sweet on!"*

Kenny Urmie
Stockton, Iowa

A doctor put a woman on a diet eating bananas. After about a week the doctor called to see how she was doing. The woman's husband answered the phone. The doctor asked him if his wife was losing weight. Her husband said, *"No, but she sure is climbing the trees."*

Tammy Fox
Fair Play, Missouri

Once there was a head named Herman. He was just a head and every day he would roll off to school. One day he saw this very pretty girl and wanted to walk home with her, but no one wants to walk home with a head so that night he called his fairy godmother and told her about his problem. She said she would see what she could do about it. The next morning he had a body and arms, but no legs, so he walked to school on his hands. He again called his fairy godmother and once again, she said she would see what she could do. The next morning he woke up a normal human being. He got up feeling wonderful, fixed his first breakfast and started to school. Halfway there he was hit by a car and killed. Moral: Quit while you're a head.

Lewis Moore
Bostic, North Carolina

Mr. Smith's dog was so smart that he decided to enroll him in school. When the dog came home after the first day. Mr. Smith asked, *"Did you learn to read today?"* The dog shook his head.

"Did you learn to write?" asked Mr. Smith. Again, the dog shook his head.

Mr. Smith tried again, *"How about a foreign language?"*

The dog smiled and replied, *"Meow!"*

Joe Bradshaw
Maud, Texas

There was an old man who always carried his favorite shovel to work as a gardener's helper. When asked why he always carried his shovel, he answered, *"I never heave loam without it."*

Leslie Schweitzer
Dodge, North Dakota

A woman was talking about the small attendance at church. *"It gets so bad on Sunday morning,"* she said, *"that when the preacher says 'dearly beloved,' it makes me blush."*

Gena Cunningham
Potts Camp, Mississippi

Big Bull and Little Bull were out grazing when they both decided they wanted in the other pasture. Big Bull was so big and tall that he just jumped over the fence, but Little Bull was too short and couldn't crawl under since the fence went all the way to the ground. So, Little Bull had to walk all the way to the other end of the pasture and walk through the gate to get in the pasture with Big Bull. Which goes to show you, *"A Little Bull will go a long way."*

Wendy Droze
Crowder, Oklahoma

A former choir singer was asked why he gave up singing with the church group. *"I was absent one Sunday,"* he explained, *"and somebody asked if the organ had been fixed!"*

Karen Barnes
Salinas, California

A mountaineer, seeing his first motorcycle on the road, raised his rifle and fired away.

"Did you get that varmint?" asked his wife.

"Hit it, but didn't kill it," he said. *"I can still hear it growlin'. But I sure made it turn that poor man loose."*

Billy Reese
Chase City, Virginia

A five-year-old visiting a farm for the first time was looking at a fat sow in a pen.

"She's big, isn't she?" said the farmer.

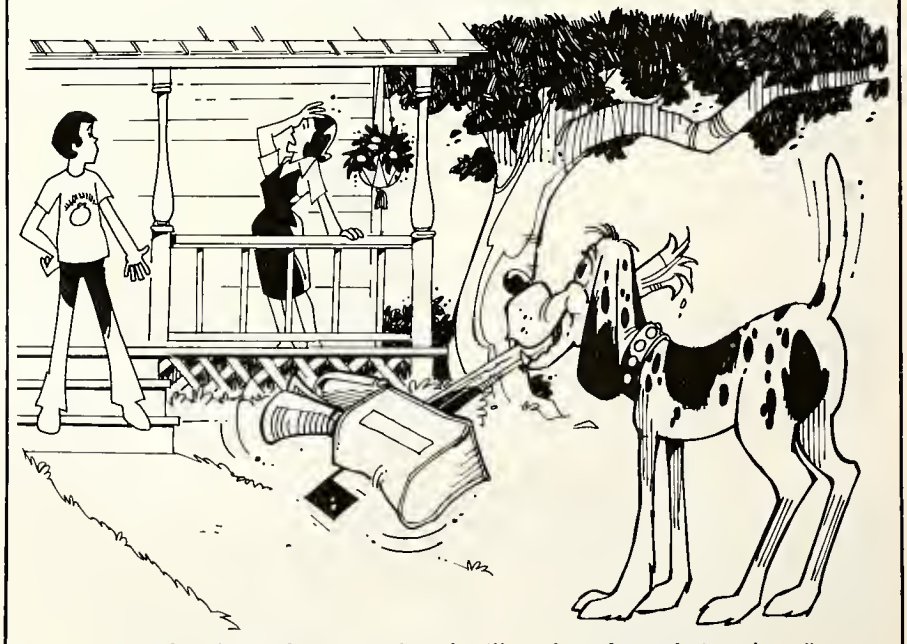
"She should be," said the youngster. *"I just saw six little piggies blowing her up a few minutes ago."*

Jerry Diveley
Severance, Kansas

There was once a conductor on a subway. The price for riding the subway was 10 cents. The conductor figured he would make a little money and charged 25 cents. For this he was arrested and sentenced to be electrocuted. They asked him what he wanted for his last meal. He said he wanted steak, hash browns and a fine glass of wine. After that, they sent him to the chair. They threw the switch, but nothing happened. They tried again after he had another fine meal. This time they hooked up all the power in the state, but again nothing happened. They asked why he couldn't be electrocuted. He said it was because he was a poor conductor!

Al Crider
Eagle, Bend, Minnesota

Charlie, the Greenhand



"He does bring the paper, though. I'll work on his technique later."

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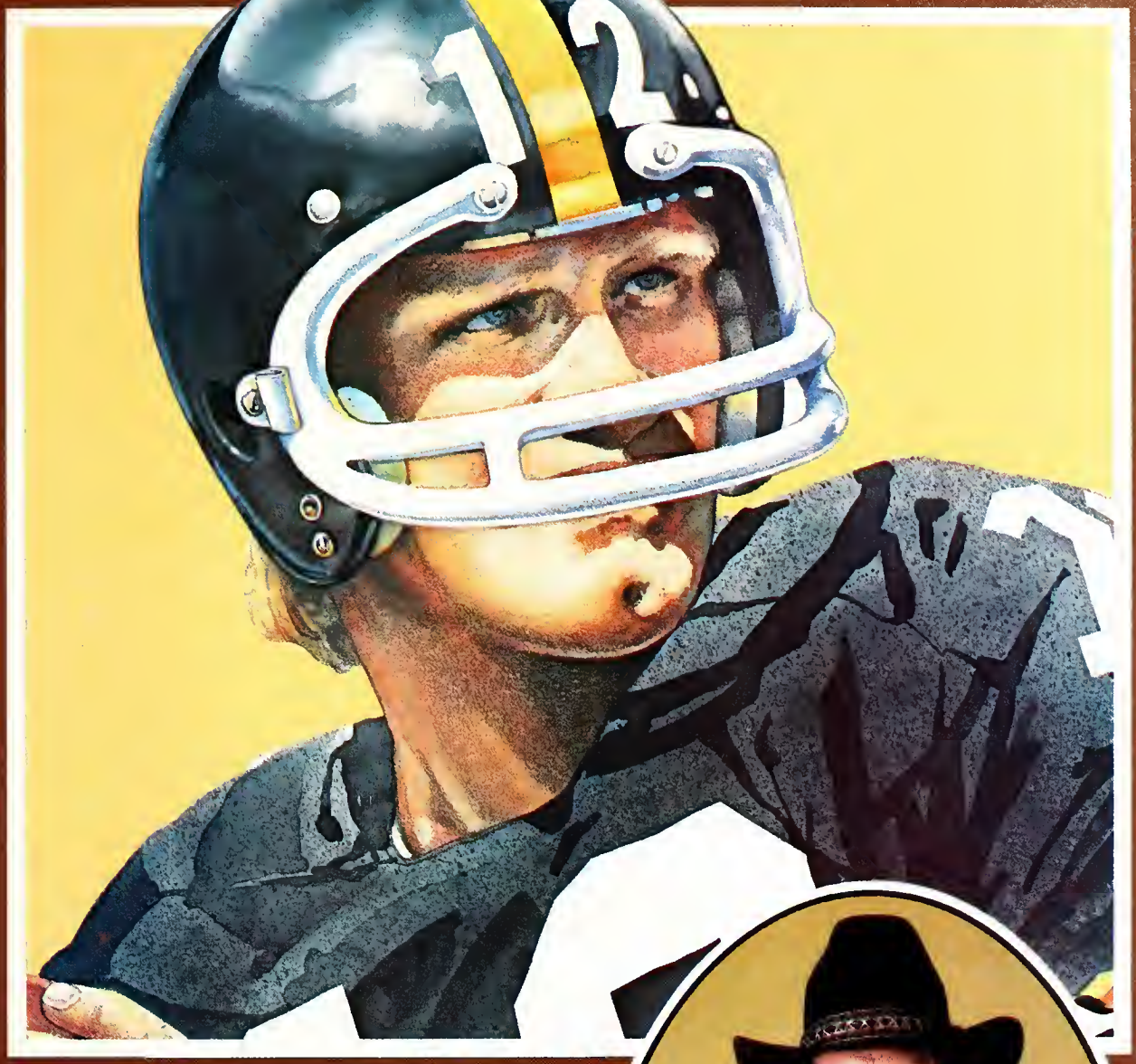

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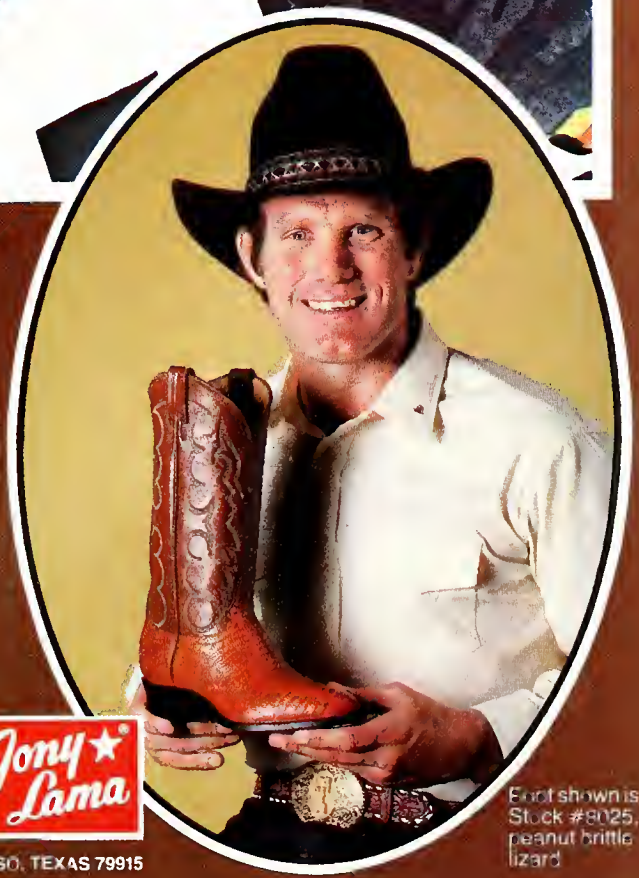

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Northern Plains Tomato Rabbit

Ingredients: 1 large or 2 small rabbits; ½ cup bacon drippings or lard; 1 medium onion, chopped; 1 clove garlic, minced; 1 carrot, diced; 1 cup mushrooms; 2 ribs celery, diced; 1 green pepper, seeded and cut in strips; 1 teaspoon salt; small bunch fresh basil; 12 plum tomatoes, blanched and peeled; pinch of brown sugar; ½ cup water.

Brown rabbit in fat with garlic. When brown on all sides, add onion, carrot, mushrooms, celery and green pepper. Sprinkle with salt and sugar and add the basil. Put in the tomatoes and pour in water. Cover tightly and simmer for about 1½ hours or until the rabbit is tender. Serve with cornmeal mush.

Serves 4-6.

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